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THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2011

CORONER HITS OUT IN PLANE CRASH INQUEST

A NARRATIVE verdict was recorded by the coroner conducting the inquest into the deaths of Maesteg-born Alex Collins and his girlfriend Bethan Jones of Rhondda.

The couple were killed in a plane crash in Thailand in 2007: Alex and Bethan, who met as students at Cardiff University, had left Wales only a few days before on the first leg of their round-the-world trip.

They had decided, on impulse, to travel from Bangkok to Phuket and booked seats on the One To Go flight. The airline has been blacklisted by the EU over safety con-

cerns. The inquest heard that Alex died instantly in the crash, but Bethan died 10 days later in hospital after suffering 70 per cent burns. They were both aged 22.

Alex was the son of Richard and Margaret Collins of Neath Road, Maesteg, who run the Travella shop in the town.

Stuart Fisher, West Lincolnshire coroner, criticised the airline, the airport operator at Phuket, and the Thai authorities for contributing to the crash, which occurred as the plane tried to land during torrential rain.

JAYNE ISAAC



ABOVE:

Badminton is a boom sport in Porthcawl and the mayor, Coun Mary Emmment-Lewis, recently visited the club. To read the story, please turn to page 3.

MAESTEG MAN IS JAILED Pub customer suffered 'double fracture of jaw'

A pub customer suffered a double fracture of the jaw and a broken cheekbone after being attacked.

Ryan Walters (30) from Maesteg, later claimed the victim "tormented" him.

Walters was jailed for a year after pleading guilty at Cardiff Crown Court, to inflicting grievous bodily harm on Matthew Page.

Judge David Wynn Morgan said: "What happened was out of all proportion to any aggravation. This is a case where two blows were struck to your victim and quite considerable grievous bodily harm was caused."

The judge added: "You are now 30, and it is time for appearances before this court to be put behind you".

Prosecutor Helen Roddick

by AJ SICLUNA

said that on March 26 last year, both men were in the Star Hotel, Commercial Street, Maesteg. They knew each other.

At one point, Mr Page was walking towards the bar and pulled at Walter's baseball cap in fun.

Walters took offence and said: "Don't mess about."

He punched him to the face, when Mr Page fell to the floor, he was kicked and as he tried to get to his feet, a blow landed in his face.

"There was a rush of blood from his face and he became disorientated," said Ms Roddick. He suffered three fractures, as well as double vision. He underwent an operation where plates and screws were inserted in the jaw.

The defendant later said: "I

only hit him once, and dropped him."

He appeared upset and explained to the police that Mr Page had tormented him, and he had also been told he was going to be beaten up.

The court heard that Walters had convictions for inflicting grievous bodily harm for which he had received 12 months imprisonment, assaulting the police and taking part in an affray in Commercial Street, Maesteg.

His counsel, Michael Hammett supplied five references.

He said there had been an element of harassment: "The victim was intoxicated, and he failed to realise the effect he was having. Walters regrets what happened and has apologised."

"Clearly, he is a man who can use his fists. He is also a valued member of the community."

Kissing gates bar to disabled on Porthcawl coastal path

Report by JAYNE ISAAC

DISABLED access to the new boardwalk and coastal path at Porthcawl is being impeded by the erection of kissing gates, according to a local woman.

Cathryn Russell contacted Porthcawl Town Council to complain about the new path that

runs from Rest Bay to Pink Bay.

She said that gates have been erected along the route, which totally block access to the path for many disabled people.

Mrs Russell said that until recently, she was a keen runner and, following the construction of the path last year, ran along it most days.

Owing to illness, she now has to use a mobility scooter and was devastated to find that she can travel no further than the gates by Porthcawl Golf Club at Rest Bay.

She went on: "While I was sitting on my scooter considering how I could possibly access the path, a significant number of passers-by stopped and tried in vain to help. They were all totally appalled by the lack of access for people like me."

She said that when the pathway was opened, the council stated that the boardwalk had been specifically designed to allow wheelchair users and people with pushchairs to easily access the path.

She pointed out that the nature of her illness makes it impossible for her to propel herself along in a wheelchair.

The only way she can get about is by a mobility scooter.

She went on: "With the construction of the new path that will ultimately link Rest Bay with the Promenade, I feel that there will invariably be many more disabled people left feeling humiliated and discriminated against - when simply trying to access the remainder of the coastal path only to find the access totally blocked by a series of gates."

Councillors were shown copies of a reply to Mrs Russell from Alison Roberts, who is the coastal access officer with BCBC.

She stated in her reply that the path was created as part of the Welsh Assembly's initiative for an all-Wales coast path with sections suitable for the disabled, families with prams, horse riders and cyclists.

She said that two gates had been installed on the section in question and the types of gates chosen allowed wheelchair users and people with pushchairs to easily access the path.

She stated: "The gates that have been installed are medium mobility kissing gates. These are designed to British Standards and do allow

access by medium mobility vehicles, wheelchairs and pushchairs and have been used extensively on other rights of way in the borough."

She said that the present position was a big improvement on the previous situation where walkers had to negotiate an awkward stone stile and cross over a shingle beach before reaching the path at Ffynnon Wen rocks.

There was also a second stile further along, which also prevented access to the disabled or with pushchairs.

She went on: "What has recently been installed has therefore increased access for a lot of people who had previously been unable to use the footpath."

CONTINUED
ON PAGE 4

'Blast furnace still council's responsibility'

CLAIMS made at the last meeting of Maesteg Town Council that the responsibility for the old blast furnace next to Maesteg Sports Centre had been handed over to Tesco have been denied by BCBC.

A council spokesman told THE GEM that the blast furnace is a scheduled ancient monument and a Grade 2 listed building and remains the responsibility of the council.

It is located next to the Sports Centre, which incorporates the Blast Engine house of the old Maesteg Ironworks into

its structure. The council's conservation and design team is now considering the possibility of carrying out restoration work on the old furnace should any funding become available.

The town council wants action taken to clean up litter from around the blast furnace.

The Maesteg Ironworks opened in the 1830s, and was the second one in the town.

The Llynfi Ironworks were located in the area around South Parade and underneath some of the land now occupied by Maesteg Comprehensive School.

The old coal washery was also on this site.

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Local school celebrates hat trick of green flags!

Pupils at Heol-y-Cyw primary school line up for a photo shoot to celebrate their third green flag.



HEOL-Y-CYW Primary, which has just 47 pupils, has become the first primary school in Bridgend County Borough to receive its third Green Flag.

Locally, it's a feat matched only by Pontycymer Nursery which has also won the prestigious third award.

The honour came after Heol-y-Cyw impressed assessors from Keep Wales Tidy with a number of new initiatives to build on their tradition of environmental excellence.

Since gaining their second

flag, the school's eco committee has added extra recycling, including clothes for 'Bag for Schools', collecting plastic bottles to create a plastic bottle greenhouse and creating an outdoor eco classroom.

They have also helped the community by completing regular litter picks, shopping locally and buying food for Bridgend Food Bank.

Headteacher Lynne Bowen-Jones said: "We are delighted. To receive this honour shows what we are doing together has been recognised. Caring for the environment has become part of every day life at Heol-y-Cyw and

the children really understand what they do now is for their own futures.

"They take enormous pleasure in reading energy meters to monitor weekly usage, conserving water indoors, as well as outdoors, in several water butts and growing different plants and vegetables in our Nursery Rhyme Garden. I'm very proud of what we have achieved, which has been admirably led by Laura Lyons, eco-leader, and our eco committee! I'm thrilled to be the first primary school in Bridgend county borough to achieve the third Green Flag."

THERE CAN BE NO FOREIGN OCCUPATION FORCES IN LIBYA... but what are our objectives?

SIX MINUTES – that was the time limit on speeches during the debate on military action in Libya and UN Resolution 1973.

When I sat down at the end of my allotted time, I still had much I wanted to say. In six minutes, I was able to pay tribute to the RAF and Navy crews already involved in the Libya mission, but also raise some my concerns.

Among those concerns is the danger to civilians on the ground, costs, and lack of an end game.

A recent report by Save the Children stated that 90 per cent of casualties in war zones are civilians. In the past decade, two million children have died, and six million have been permanently disabled, directly as a result of conflict.

Our rules of engagement attempt to mitigate such deaths, but the deaths will happen. Securing access for the International committee of the Red Cross and other aid agencies on the ground in Libyan must be a priority.

The UN resolution clearly states that there cannot be a foreign occupation force in Libya, but what is not clear is what our objective in the longer-term is and what our exit strategy is.

Forces can and almost certainly will be "on the ground" but not as an "occupational force".

Will we be sending in our armed forces to aid the 'rebels'? When does a 'rebel' cease to be a civilian? Who are the 'rebels' and what is their aim other than getting rid of Gaddafi? What do we do if the 'rebels' attack Gaddafi's forces, do we then attack Gaddafi's forces?

There is conflict within government, as to whether regime change can be or is an objective

for our forces. The strategic defence and security review states that we will deploy forces on the basis of a number of tests, including whether it is in our national interests.

One of tests is whether we have a 'viable exit strategy'. No one has yet clarified that exit strategy.

Ultimately, I reluctantly voted to support the engagement of British forces because of the support from the Arab League – Arab leaders need to shoulder the burden of this action.

A demand for change is coming from Arab countries across the Middle East. This is an opportunity for change, for a new and more mature dialogue between Arab and western cultures.

Supporting that call for change is important, but the Arab League support for the UN resolution and the no-fly zone must underpin this endeavour.

Behind this joint action there must also exist a dialogue about the call for greater freedom in other Arab nations. This dialogue must prevent further conflict and western military engagement. This must be the Arab nation's hour of change.

Had I had time, I would have liked to have detailed the impact of defence cuts on the decision being made.

Some of the planes and ships being used for this action were due to be scrapped following the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

The Sentinel aircraft currently gathering intelligence and HMS Cumberland enforcing the naval blockade were heading for the scrapheap.

This action risks putting an extra burden on our already overstretched armed forces. Overstretch is not a new concern, but it could become more acute

WESTMINSTER NOTEBOOK

Bridgend MP MADELEINE MOON writes an exclusive column from Westminster for The GEM.



as time goes on, particularly against a background of redundancies and budget cuts.

The Ministry of Defence has what are called 'Harmony Guidelines' which establish how long individual service personnel should have between periods of active duty.

Breaching these guidelines can have a negative effect on individuals. One study found that personnel deployed for 13 months or more were at an increased risk of post traumatic stress disorder and psychological stress.

With our commitment to action in Libya on top of our ongoing commitment in Afghanistan, breaches are likely to get worse. While we tend to think of veterans as the older generation who served in past conflicts, the reality is that every generation has its service veterans.

Psychological problems associated with military service do not necessarily appear straightaway, but may develop much later on. It is generally accepted that we may not see the true impact of our commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan and now Libya until

some way into the future.

At the heart of this is a debate about what role the UK envisages for itself in the future and what commitments it can make against a background of cuts to budgets and equipment.

The concept of the military covenant has been discussed at great length recently. Until now the covenant has been an almost unspoken understanding that in return for devoting themselves to our defence, we would look after the armed forces.

To safeguard the welfare of those serving now, including their families and veterans past present and future, the covenant needs to be given a firmer footing. It is time to write it down and enshrine it in law.

The Defence Select Committee, of which I am a member, has this week decided to undertake an inquiry into military action in Libya.

As part of the inquiry, I believe we must examine the impact it will have on the decisions made in the strategic defence and security review and on the armed forces.

What we expect from our servicemen and women will form an important part of this.

STAIRWAY TO SUCCESS, FOR COMIC RELIEF!

STUDENTS from Archbishop McGrath Comprehensive School took to the stairs to raise more than £1,200 for Comic Relief.

Pupils completed 52 laps of the internal staircases; the equivalent of walking up and down Snowdon! All year groups took part in the event which took a leg-tiring five hours to complete, a spokesman reported.

"The fundraising event was arranged by the physical education department with help from the Active Young People department.

"The success on the day was down to the students who worked as a team, encouraging one another to finish the task. More than £1,200 was raised in total, thanks to generous supporters and fundraisers."

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 7)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
31 Thur	05.27	8.5	18.51	8.7
01 Fri	07.08	8.9	19.23	9.0
02 Sat	07.46	9.2	20.02	9.2
03 Sun	08.14	9.3	20.33	9.3
04 Mon	08.49	9.6	21.06	9.4
05 Tues	09.19	9.5	21.34	9.4
06 Wed	09.50	9.3	22.03	9.3
07 Thur	10.19	9.3	22.33	9.1

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Domino and Doodles make a double plea!

Cats Protection, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9UJ
Tel: 01656 726621 • Fax: 01656 722012
Email: bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk



MEET Domino and Doodles – two brothers who love each other very much.

They are currently the longest staying cats in the Bryncethin centre. They were a little shy when they arrived, but will be proper lap cats when you get them home!

They are homely cats and in their previous home, were used to going out into a run and having some fresh air so would suit a quiet area.

Contact: bridgend@cats.org.uk.

Porthcawl Lions Club boost for cancer charities

PORHCRAWL Lions Club is pleased to inform its friends and supporters that in the past 12 months it has raised more than £3,000 for cancer charities, with donations to Breast Cancer Care Cymru, Macmillan Cancer Support Marie Curie Cancer Care, and Glaze, the prostate cancer charity based at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

The Porthcawl Lions continue to raise money for international, national and local charities with their events throughout the year.

Coming up shortly on April 16-17 is their charity book sale at the Seabank Hotel. Full details are available on lionsclub36@hotmail.co.uk. This is then followed

by their ever-popular May Fayre at the Rest Hotel grounds on Monday, May 2, which this year features an even larger fun dog show organised by PAWS.

The charity golf day at the Grove Golf Club is on Friday, June 10.

Full details of all these events can be found on their web site porthcawllions.org.uk

The next meeting of Porthcawl Lions Club will be at its new venue, the Hi Tide in Mackworth Road at 7.45pm on Tuesday, April 5.

New members, both male and female, are always welcome!

DAVID RICHARDS

Councillors told that school buses had 12 'defects'

SCHOOL buses taking children to and from two schools in the Llynfi Valley were found to have defects during a spot check.

Llangynwyd councillors were told that inspectors carried out checks on buses taking children to Maesteg Comprehensive and Ysgol Gyfun Llangynwyd.

Twelve faults were found and three were serious enough to warrant immediate off-road notices being served on the buses involved.

There were three further advisory off road notices served. Two drivers were also ordered to stop driving with immediate effect.

Councillors expressed concern about this information and members will be monitoring the situation.

A police spokesman said that Maesteg's Neighbourhood Policing team had been running a specific traffic operation in response to increased public concern about the way some motorists are driving in the Llynfi Valley.

Operation LEAP has focussed on tackling the issue of speeding but some exercises were done with the Vehicle Operator Services Agency and BCBC, checking school buses.

As a result, the entire operation produced two arrests, ten vehicle seizures, 17 fines and 22 written warnings. In all, 5700 vehicles were checked during the operation.

Operation LEAP will continue to run intermittently for the rest of the year.

Man jailed for beating up two teenage boys

A MAESTEG man has been jailed for four years at Cardiff Crown Court for attacking two teenage boys.

Jonathan Thomas (39), was found guilty of wounding one with intent and causing a second youth actual bodily harm.

Prosecutor Laurence Jones, said Thomas punched one of them, and stamped on the face and kicked the other one.

by AJ SICLUNA

One of the victims suffered a broken jaw, which needed plates and wiring and he was in hospital for three days. The second victim suffered grazing and bruises to the ribs.

Thomas denied the charges and said he merely pushed the two and they had been lying about the attack.

His counsel Kevin Seal, said he had been on benefits for eight

or nine years, and suffered from depression.

He said that it was the first incident of violence in which he had been involved.

The attacks, he said, were not sustained and there was no permanent disfigurement.

Recorder Christopher Clee told Thomas: "You beat up two boys half your age, for no good reason. A prison sentence is inevitable in this case, and I will pass as short a sentence as I possibly can."

Indecent exposure: man sought

BRIDGEND police are appealing for information following an incident in the Barnardo's charity shop in the

town centre when the man, thought to be in his early to mid 20s, exposed himself to a shop assistant.

He was described as

white, about 5ft 6ins tall and of a skinny build, with dark brown hair.

"He wore rectangular glasses, a blue, possibly navy, baseball cap, a t-shirt, light blue jeans and white adidas trainers. He left the store carrying a white and green

Barnardo's bag," said Police Sergeant Rhodri Davies.

"I would urge anyone with information to contact me direct at Bridgend police station on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Council urged to take action over 'poo' offenders

PROBLEMS with dog poo left in the back lane at Well Street have been raised with Porthcawl Town Council.

Mr P Lambert, who lives in the street, complained that the back lane was not cleaned.

He said: "The alley is now being used as a dog toilet and it is unbelievable that the people who live at the rear of Well Street have to put up with this."

"We still have to pay our rates, so we should not be treated like second class citizens."

"If we lived on the main road, this mess would not be allowed to accumulate and the offenders would be brought to book."

He urged the town council to keep a watch on this area and take action against the dog owners who fail to clean up after their pets.

Coun Alana Davies said that she had spoken to the cleansing department at BCBC, who had advised that a cleaning team would be sent out.

Members were told that the area was now free of dog mess, so it was concluded that the area has already been cleaned.

The council agreed to ask their handyman to include the lane as part of his poop-scoop patrols and also to ask the enforcement officer at BCBC to keep an eye on the area.

Mr Lambert will be told of the actions being taken.

Burglary at Maesteg flat

DETECTIVES are investigating a burglary at a second floor flat in Oakwood, Maesteg, between 5pm on Thursday, March 17 and 5.15pm on Saturday, March 26.

Access was gained to the apartment via a builders' scaffold and a considerable amount of property was removed.

This included a black Techwood 26in flat screen television, a grey sky box, Technika DVD player, a PS2 and controllers, a Compaq laptop and a number of wrist watches.

These included a Sekonda watch with silver strap and gold face with 'USSR' on the rear, a Storm watch with a silver strap and blue face, a Sekonda diver's watch with a blue face and

black leather strap (unknown value), an Accurist watch with a silver strap and black face and a lady's antique watch with black strap, square face with a gold metal surround.

Various items of silver and gold jewellery were also stolen.

Detective Constable Rebecca Merchant of Bridgend CID said: "We are appealing for any information about this burglary."

"We would like to hear from anyone who may have been offered any of this property for sale, or if you know of its whereabouts."

Contact Detective Inspector Jason Redrup at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

NEWS FROM MAESTEG ROTARY CLUB

Rotarians rally to cystic fibrosis unit at Llandough

CYSTIC fibrosis is an inherited disease which affects a great many people living in Wales, around 20 of whom live in the Maesteg area.

Because of the apparent prevalence of the disease in the locality, the Maesteg Rotary Club contacted the cystic fibrosis unit at Llandough Hospital in Cardiff to seek some background information into the illness.

A visit took place on September 6, 2010 which included a briefing from the Director, Dr RI Ketchell, a tour of the unit, and discussions with some patients.

The club made a small donation at the end of that meeting and undertook to raise funds to present the unit with an efflow rapid nebuliser.

These items help provide sufferers with a degree of independence and the ability in some cases to enter the job market which otherwise would be denied to them.

The photograph (top, right, from left to right) shows Rotarian Norman Boyle, past president John Agate, Dr Ian Ketchell, and physiotherapist Rebekah Mills, who is holding the nebuliser and Rotarian David Howells, secretary of the Maesteg Rotary Club.



Arrangements are in hand for Dr Ketchell and his team to make a presentation to a wider Rotary audience to help with the unit's fundraising campaign.

VIV GAGE

Club meets new carer centre manager

MAESTEG Rotary Club, which has a close association with Bridgend Carers Unit, was delighted to host its new manager, Helen Pit, during her recent visit to the club.

She gave a comprehensive account of the work being undertaken by the unit and of the plans to move to a new location in Bridgend.

She then pointed out that carers were saving the NHS, social and wel-



fare services somewhere in the region of £87 billion a year.

She particularly highlighted the work being undertaken to support those carers too old to fall into the 'Young Carers' category and too

young to feel comfortable with the adult group.

She explained that Bridgend County Borough Council provided funding for the 'essential elements' of caring, but additional help was necessary to provide carers with respite care and some recreational facilities.

The photograph (above) shows president Viv Gage, presenting Helen with a cheque for £150, to help provide facilities to reduce stress in the 18-25 year old group of carers.

Readers who may be interested in joining Rotary are invited to contact Viv Gage on 01639 870442 or by email at viv.gage@talk21.com.

Thieves ransack house

POLICE are hunting burglars who ransacked a house in Caerau, Maesteg, between 6pm on Wednesday, March 23 and 7pm on Saturday, March 26.

They gained access to the house on Tudor Estate and made off with two black sub-woofer amplifiers and two black mixing decks, said

Sergeant Paul Mason of Bridgend CID.

"This was a very unpleasant incident. The house has been broken into and every room has been ransacked before the burglars left with the amplifiers and mixing decks."

"We are particularly interested in speaking to two people who were seen leaving the house at around 10.30pm on

Thursday, March 24."

One was described as a white male, about 5'9" tall, of stocky build and wearing a grey hooded top. The other white male was about 5'5" tall, wearing a black hooded top and jeans.

Contact Detective Sergeant Paul Mason at Bridgend CID on 01656 679518, or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

BRAVO CÔR BRO OGWR!

Concert a resounding success!

THE concert given by Côr Bro Ogwr at all Saints' Church, Porthcawl on Saturday, March 12, was a resounding success.

Joining the choir, with conductor Edward-Rhys Harry, were Rhianon Llewellyn (soprano) and Timothy Nelson (baritone), a member of 'Only Men Aloud' with Glenn Crooks (choir accompanist) and Jeff Howard on two pianos.

The range of music in the first half had something in it for everyone.

It opened with the Welsh hymn, 'Llanfair' (the conductor's own arrangement) followed by the gentle 'Cennin Aur' (Daffodils) and folk song 'Ar Lan y Mor'; then the warm and expressive 'Tangnefeddwy' (Peacemakers) and finally that firm favourite 'Ydi a Roddaist' with its loud 'Amens' - music to clear your head!

Interspersed with these items

were solo songs from Rhianon and Timothy. They both displayed superb vocal talent and communicated warmly with the audience.

The bantering and teasing in the duet 'La ci darem la mano' from Mozart's *Marriage of Figaro* showed real stage personalities. Their encore, the duet, 'Bess you are my woman now' from Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* - a really vocal and theatrical showpiece - won them the biggest cheer of the evening - clearly two young singers to watch.

Then another duet, this time by the two pianists, with lots of dazzling finger-work in the fast and furious 'Slavonic Dance' by Dvorak which brought the choir to its feet in rapturous applause.

An entirely different atmosphere prevailed in the second half with a performance, in English, of Brahms' 'German Requiem', a work of great dramatic and spiritual intensity.

This performance was of

Brahms' own two-piano version rather than the conventional orchestral one. Here, it must be said, the two pianists showed total commitment to the spirit of the music.

The dark and brooding opening chorus set the scene for what was to come.

The choir gave an assured performance throughout the whole work especially in the broad full sound of the dramatic climaxes such as 'The Trumpet shall be sounded.'

In the solo and chorus section 'Ye now are sorrowful,' Rhianon's pure-voiced, tender rendition, supported by some expressive singing from the choir, took the work to new heights.

The conductor's balancing between choir, soloists and the two pianos was always well-judged. All credit to him for his hard work and enthusiasm.

A lovely concert in a lovely church. Bravo Côr Bro Ogwr! ANNE THOMAS

RIGHT: The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emmett-Lewis with junior coach Brian Saunders, club chairman Dave Bush and members of the senior section.



PHOTOGRAPH by KEITH E MORGAN

Porthcawl Badminton Club is bursting at the seams!

BADMINTON is booming in Porthcawl and Porthcawl's Mayor, Coun Mary Emmett-Lewis, recently visited the club to see for herself.

The mayor was welcomed to the badminton club, which is held in the comprehensive school in the evenings, by club chairman Dave Bush and by the

head coach of the junior section, Brian Saunders.

Numbers attending both junior and senior badminton sessions have been so large that waiting lists have had to be introduced. The combined figure for juniors and younger seniors is around 40.

Brian said how grateful he was to older pupils from the comprehensive school and to

some senior players who helped each week with the coaching.

Dave did stress the need for further older players to join although three regulars are over 70! He thanked the mayor for her much appreciated attendance and she in turn spoke to the juniors, expressing how impressed she was by their enthusiasm and skill.

Army veteran carried out a £7,700 fraud

AN ARMY veteran who served in Iraq and Bosnia defrauded the service of more than £7,700, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Lewis McGhan (24) of Bridgend, who had been in the Welsh Guards, had put through fictitious claims for travelling expenses to receive medical treatment.

McGhan admitted six charges of fraud. He was jailed for 36 weeks, suspended for 18 months, and made subject to a supervision order for a year.

Recorder Christopher Clee said: "You in effect stole £7,000 from the army."

Prosecutor Tony Trigg said the case was originally heard before Aldershot magistrates and committed to Cardiff for sentence.

McGhan, he said, had been a serving Welsh Guard from 2004-2009, and was discharged with mental health problems.

The offences came to light as a result of his travelling expenses being

queried.

He claimed he had travelled to the Coity Clinic, Bridgend. This was found to be incorrect.

An audit was carried out and it was discovered he had made false claims of travelling to London, Bristol, Yorkshire, and a hospital in Scotland.

"He simply made up the journeys," McGhan later said he owed debts to cocaine dealers and he wanted to keep them at bay.

He was said to have convictions for making off without paying at petrol stations and restaurants.

His counsel, Sarah Waters, said: "Effectively, this was a breach of trust. He has a background of mental health difficulties involving delusional thoughts."

When in the army, he had been regarded as a good soldier, but "things went horribly wrong".

She said the catalogue of offences had been caused by cocaine. He had the offer of a job in internet technology.

AJ SICLUNA



ABOVE: The Sandville as it is now. (Photograph by Keith E Morgan).

Special day at the Sandville

PORTHCAWL'S favourite charity is holding a day of special events to celebrate its 20th year at its base in Ton Kenfig.

The Sandville Self Help Centre has been located at Tŷn Kenfig since April 1991, when Pen-y-Mynydd House was purchased by the foundation and it became Sandville Court.

To celebrate being at Tŷn Kenfig for 20 years, the Sandville is holding a day of entertainment on Saturday, April 9.

From 11am to 6pm, guests will be welcomed, and among the attractions will be freshly-cooked Indian and Sri Lankan food, and a range of stalls selling home-made cakes, cards, bric-a-brac and many other items.

There will be a vintage fashion show, and a beauty session (those interested should bring their own make-up).

The Sandville's bar will be open and there will be entertainment from the Porthcawl Ukelele Band and a Shirley bassey tribute artist.

For more information, telephone 01656 743344 or visit www.sandville.org

GATE FURORE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

She stated that the new path, being built across Lock's Common, will not have any gates so will afford access for all. She said that the council was looking at various options and would re-assess the types of gates already installed to see if they can be upgraded.

She concluded: "The council has made every attempt to cater for all users where it possibly can and access at Rest Bay has been greatly

improved and is still being done so."

Mrs Russell is disputing the statement that medium sized disability vehicles can use the gates.

She said: "My mobility scooter has very similar dimensions to the type of scooters that are marketed as medium sized."

She has asked Ms Roberts to meet her on site and assess the feasibility of her scooter being able to negotiate the constraints of the kissing gate.

She added: "This stretch of coastline holds so many happy memories for me and is much loved."

Up until very recently, I accessed it on a daily basis and long to be able to access it once again albeit in a different capacity."

Councillors were concerned to hear of this situation and it was agreed that they take the matter up with BCBC on behalf of Mrs Russell.

Coun Chris Smart told The GEM: "It is unfair if disabled people cannot access this boardwalk which has been very popular since it opened."

"We will be asking the council to look into what Mrs Russell is saying because other people may also be affected. We have to support her campaign."

"We need the bor-

ough to go along and see what it can do to modify these gates to make them more accessible for disabled people."

A council spokesman said that the gates installed were specifically designed to accommodate medium mobility wheelchairs, bicycles and parents with pushchairs.

The gates were tested by a local volunteer who is a wheelchair user before the path was opened.

The statement went on: "However, it appears that the model of mobility scooter used by Mrs Russell is too large to fit through the gates."

"The Coastal Path project is grant funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the council is currently considering options for making alterations to the gates once suitable funding becomes available. We will also be taking this into account for future planned sections of the coastal path."

He added that the council had been liaising with Mrs Russell and Porthcawl Town Council over this matter and will be keeping them both up to date with developments.

The Sandville: How it all began...



Nursing Sisters Rosemary Harrington and Gwyneth Poacher pictured in 1981.

WHEN a plan to open a hospice for cancer sufferers in the Bridgend area was shelved in 1981, a nursing service was created for the district.

Two community Nursing Sisters, Gwyneth Poacher and Rosemary Harrington, were appointed as Macmillan Nurses – a sort of 'flying squad' for cancer sufferers. Gwyneth and Rosemary were the first in Wales to take on this very important role and have been pals ever since.

Pictures by KEITH E MORGAN



This photograph of Gwyneth and Rosemary was taken during a recent visit by Rosemary to the Sandville Self-help Centre.

French choir's visit



ABOVE: La Chorale du Lac.

THE Tabernacl Music Society, together with the Town Twinning Committee, will soon be welcoming the 'Chorale du Lac', a choir from Bridgend's twin town, Villeneuve-d'Ornon, France, for a joint concert on Saturday, April 9, at Tabernacl Chapel, Derwen Road, Bridgend at 7.30pm.

La Chorale du Lac is a mixed choir of 20 or so voices and already has five CDs to its credit. Its repertoire is characteristically French with a good mix of folk tunes.

Villeneuve d'Ornon is a town of 30,000 population on the banks of the river Garonne just south of Bordeaux in south-west France.

In Bordeaux, one of the trams is named 'Bridgend' while in Villeneuve, a half bridge has been erected on a traffic roundabout called Bridgend.

The Chorale is here on its first visit, coordinated by former mayor, Coun Eileen McIlveen, to promote town twinning.

Regular visits between citizens of both towns have been enjoyed since 1994 when the scheme was set up, while exchanges of pupils from secondary schools take place each year.

During their five-day stay, the Chorale will be entertained with informal social events and visits to Pwll Mawr (Big Pit) near Newport and the Penderyn Distillery.

They will also be giving a concert on Friday, April 8, at Gilgal, Porthcawl sharing the stage with the local group 'Sounds Familiar'.

The joint concert at Tabernacl Chapel on the Saturday promises to be a delightful musical event with plenty of French flavour from the Chorale, including the familiar 'Chanson d'Amour' and 'La Mer', coupled with a light and varied selection of favourites from TMS's repertoire, including Welsh items and extracts from Puccini's 'Messa di Gloria' accompanied by Steven Burges and conducted by Kevin Adams.

Tickets are available from 01656 880337, or at the door.

ANNE THOMAS

Residents' local link

A communication group may be set up by Porthcawl Town Council to improve its links with local residents.

Newly elected Graham Walter, who won a seat on the council as an independent, made the suggestion at the last meeting.

He said that the council should be more proactive in informing people about what's going on. He suggested organising things like newsletters, public meetings and columns in papers like The GEM.

His proposal was backed by other councillors and it was agreed to ask the administration committee to look into how this could be done.

Who wants to build what and where in the county borough?

Mr P Hinkin – 24 Heol Castell Coety, Litchard – Crown reduction of trees in rear garden.

Mr Jeffrey Dix – 17 Riverside, Aberkenfig – Reduce oak tree in rear garden by up to 30 per cent.

McCarthy and Stone Retirement Ltd – Land off The Green Avenue, Porthcawl – Two v-board signs with two flags affixed to each.

HSBC Bank Plc – 11 Talbot Street, Maesteg – Proposed new projecting roundal sign to front elevation.

The Boots Company – 15

Nolton Street, Bridgend – 2 x non illuminated fascia signs and 1 x internally illuminated projection sign.

Mrs I Rees – 8 Lower Church Street, Pontycymer – Retention of porch and retaining wall.

Mr A Vaughan – Caner Bach Farmhouse, Blackmill – Refurbish out-buildings and convert to annex to farmhouse, 2 new rooflights to main house.

Valleys to Coast Housing Association – Land rear Ael-y-Bryn, North Cornelly – 5 plus 1 residential supported housing scheme with communal

accommodation, external works and associated drainage.

Cenin Limited – Former Stormy Down Aerodrome site, Stormy Down, Bridgend – Ground based solar photovoltaic panels for energy regeneration.

Greggs of the Midlands – Unit 11, Gentle Way, Broadlands – Install 2 no. air conditioning condensing units and install new extract grille to rear of the property.

Mr D A Jovanovic – 20 Sker Walk, Porthcawl – Single storey side extension for new garage and gar-

den/wash room.

Mr S Rimmon – 18 Sker Walk, Porthcawl – Single storey utility and day room extension.

Mr G Roberts – 1 Leekwith Court, Bryntirion Hill, Bridgend – Proposed two storey side extension.

Porthcawl Lifeguard Club – Lifeguard Station, Rhych Point, Porthcawl – Security fencing and gates to Porthcawl Lifeguard Club.

Jinked Tattoos – 5 Lias Road, Porthcawl – Change of use from letting agent to tattoo studio/parlour.

BCBC Children's

Directorate – Brackla Primary School, Brackla Way, Brackla – Proposed timber gazebo to provide shelter and an external teaching space with landscaping.

Bridgend CBC – The Drop In Centre, Griffin Park, Porthcawl – Extend ext planning consent 07/759/BCB for 2 years, siting building for use as youth drop in centre.

HD Limited – Toll House, 1 Derwen Road, Bridgend – Proposed refurbishment and extension.

HD Limited – 8 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend –

Proposed refurbishment and extension, change of use to office and partial demolition.

Davem Training Services Limited – Unit 12, Village Farm Road, Village Farm Industrial Estate, Pyle – Erect block tower to rear of unit to be used as a confined space simulation unit for training purposes.

Mr Robert Jones – 11 Riverside, Aberkenfig – Single storey utility room extension.

Mr Phillips – 13 Rhos Helyg, Maesteg – Tiled roof conservatory to rear elevation.

Mr Gary Evans – GE Carpentry Services Limited, Forge Industrial Estate, Maesteg – Installation of woodfired burner and 10.4m high chimney.

Mr Steven Godwin – 10 Bracken Way, Litchard – Single storey extension.

Mr R Colbridge – 22 Bancyr-Allt, Bridgend – Single storey extension to provide shower room.

Llandow earmarked for exploratory bore hole...

Deadline for gas drilling project objections today

A local man, whose business is yards from the proposed site for the drilling of natural gas on Llandow Industrial Estate, said he is "absolutely mortified" at the prospect.

Mr Tony John, the owner of Elizabeth-Anne Childrenswear Ltd, said as soon as he found out what was happening, he decided he would make an objection to the Vale Council.

Coastal Oil and Gas, based in Bridgend Industrial Estate, believes there could be commercial quantities of 'shale gas' 700 metres below ground.

However, there are concerns over the process of extracting the gas, commonly known as 'fracking'. Hydraulic fracturing involves pumping a mixture of sand, water, and chemicals underground at high pressure to break up the shale and release the gas.

But Mr John said what was being delivered underground was a dangerous cocktail and could have damaging consequences.

"I was absolutely mortified when I heard what might happen. I already knew what 'fracking' was, and I wouldn't want it in this country. In New York there is a ban on fracking."

"My business is a stone's throw away from the location and I am worried about the possible consequences with chemicals being used nearby."

by TIM CHAPMAN

Mr John explained that 'fracking' (or fracturing) involved explosions and that his fear was that toxic chemicals would get into underground water and contaminate springs and wells as far away as Cowbridge, and elsewhere in the Vale.

"If anyone wants to know more about fracking all they have to do is put a search into Google or You Tube - it is a major concern."

Alun Cairns MP met the managing director of Coastal Oil and Gas, Gerwyn Williams last week and the company emphasised that its application was merely for an exploratory bore hole only - to look for the presence of shale gas.

Mr Cairns said that he had informed Coastal Oil and Gas of the concerns and alarm already expressed within the communities of Llandow, Llysorwney and surrounding areas.

Mr Cairns said: "I was pleased to be able to meet with Mr Williams to find out more about their plans and processes for the site."

"I re-iterated to Coastal Oil and Gas the very real concerns and alarm regarding their planning application within the western Vale community."

"The controversy in the US is so great that New York State has imposed a moratorium on all fracturing."

"There is a committee of MPs in Westminster investigating the matter, and I have tabled Parliamentary Questions

to the Minister to clarify the latest policy guidance."

Recently, Mr Cairns raised concerns about the release of chemicals into the local environment during the drilling process, and fears of a toxic and carcinogenic impact on the area.

For the majority of exploratory bore hole schemes, there is no need to seek planning permission from local authorities, but because this exploration relates to hydrocarbon materials, planning permission is required.

In recent weeks, a campaign group 'The Vale Says No' has publicised the application for permission to drill.

Louise Evans, the group founder, and owner of Llandow Caravan Park, told The GEM: "Everyone I have spoken to is categorically opposing the application and we are doing our best to raise awareness so that everyone has the chance to get their voice heard."

The residents of Llandow held an emergency meeting in the village hall on Monday, March 28 to discuss the planning application.

The Mayor of Llantwit Major, Coun Ralf Austin, said the strong turnout illustrated the fears local people had.

"There are real concerns regarding the use of chemicals in the drilling operation and worries about contamination of underground water."

Mike Gabb of the

Vale Green Party said: "Around 80 concerned residents attended the meeting along with local councillors and local political parties showing their support for opposing the plans."

"The high turnout highlighted how concerned the local community was about the effects of future fracking on business, contamination of ground water, health risks and other long term damaging consequences."

Leaflets have been distributed in the Vale encouraging people to oppose the drilling. The final day to get objections in to the Vale Council was today, Thursday, March 31.

A spokesman for Coastal Oil and Gas Limited explained: "At this stage Coastal Oil and Gas Limited is applying for planning permission at Llandow Industrial Estate to drill a cored bore hole to carry out laboratory tests on shales that may be present in that area."

"The bore hole may also contact the Devonian measures where conventional gas may be present; conventional gas requires no fracking, it produces under natural pressure. There is no fracking required and no interaction with ground water with the current proposal, in terms of shales this proposal is the same as any other mineral exploration hole."

The spokesman added: "Given recent international events particular consideration should be given to the security of national energy supply."

Change in the air at Berwyn Centre

BIG changes may be on the cards for the Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel - as The GEM understands that moves are afoot to hand the building over to a local group to run.

The council has confirmed that it is looking at a number of options and is liaising with local groups who may be interested in running the facility.

The centre, which was originally a workmen's hall, includes a theatre and also houses the village library which is under threat of closure. We understand that



PENCOED'S OLD TIME PLAYERS HEADING TO LLANTWIT MAJOR

THE Pencoed Old Time Players have performed all over Wales - and now they are heading for Llantwit Major.

The local Llantwit Twinning Association is presenting an old time music hall evening on April 16 starting at 7.30pm in the Llantonian Hall. Admission £10, includes a light supper. Dress optional. Tickets available from Eileen (01446 794729) or Helen (01446 792164).

All aboard the 'Radio Luxury Coach' outing!



ABOVE: This photograph was taken in Porthcawl prior to a luxury coach outing. Are you in the picture? Do you know the date on which the picture was taken and what the occasion was? If you can answer any of the above questions and have further information, please telephone Keith E. Morgan on 01656 788150

Will capacity of biomass plant be doubled?

A NEW planning application has been lodged to more than double the capacity of a biomass power station planned for the Llynfi Valley.

Consent has already been granted for a 10 megawatt plant on the site of the former Llynfi Power Station near Coytrahen.

Work has been on-going for some time to

demolish the remainder of the old buildings of what was a coal-fired plant which closed in 1977.

It was run by the old CEBG - The Central Electricity Generating Board which has long since disappeared.

The new application is for a 25-megawatt plant.

Residents of Coytrahen and Betws were opposed to the original application because of fears about wind borne air pollution to their communities.

There were also fears about large lorries taking wood to the site travelling through Coytrahen, but it was later stated that that rail would be used as the main Maesteg railway line passes the site.

There used to be extensive sidings when coal was being transported to the old power station.

The new application is being processed by Bridgend planners at the moment and no decision has yet been taken.

We are now on Twitter - follow us @gem_news

New groups help charities

TWO newly-formed community groups in Wildmill have been fundraising in different ways - to raise funds for three charities.

Wildmill Fat Fighters, a weekly self support weight loss group, who meet every Tuesday at 5pm at the Community Hub, have raised an amazing £392.50 for Help the Heroes, by giving their weekly membership fees and proceeds from other fundraising activities to the charity.

Anyone interested in joining can contact the Wildmill Communities First on 01656 818570. The group have also been enjoying Salsa and Zumba sessions that were arranged by Communities First.

Knit Stitch and Knatter are also a newly-formed group who have raised £80 in the past

four months for Velindre Cancer Centre in Cardiff by making and selling seasonal chicks.

They also gave Velindre another 65 chicks for them to sell at their fundraising events.

Their new venture is to knit booties and mittens for SCBU (Special Care Baby Unit) at the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend. The group have knitted 40 mittens and 30 booties to date.

Anyone interested in joining the group, who meet every Thursday between 12pm and 2pm at the Hub, can contact Gaynor Hayes or the Wildmill Communities First Team on 01656 818570.

Alternatively, if anyone wishes to help make booties/mittens but cannot attend the sessions, they can drop them off at the Hub Monday to Friday between 10 am and 5pm.

VA NEWMAN GLASS QUIZ LEAGUE NEWS

Congratulations are in order (again) for Llangewydd Arms.

On Monday, March 21, a week after clinching the league title, they completed a 100 per cent fixture list, a first. They beat Maesteg Catholic Club 57-44, while Royal Oak Nomads, the defending champions, only dropped points to Llangewydd.

This week, they beat Llynfi Arms 57-38, and though the sides were level after the written section, a slightly weakened Llynfi were unable to cope and the challenge wilted.

Oldcastle 'A', by beating Tondur Railway Club 47-43, rounded off a successful season in third place while Laleston Inn 'A' did well to beat

Tyrisha Royals 49-39, and surprise of the night was the defeat of Mackworth Arms by Coychurch Wanderers, who won by 47-42.

Division 2 had its closest finish for years, and its still not over. Six Bells and Cabo Roche need a play-off to decide who are champions. They finished level on points after the Bells beat Pyle RFC 55-25 and Cabo Roche won 47-41 away to Pheasant Poachers.

Pheasant Gamekeepers, despite a 46-38 win at Llangainor AFC, came up just short of a place and Laleston Inn 'B' were a further point away after winning 48-33 at Heol-y-Cyw RFC.

Finally, Oddfellows Arms were unable to ful-

fil their fixture with Oldcastle 'B'.

Here are your four-for-thought:

1. In the title of a Buster Keaton film, what is 'The General'?
2. Terence Alan were the real first names of which famous comedian?
3. Who was the only golfer to win the Open twice in the 1990s?
4. Which first name was shared by all the Kings of the House of Lancaster?

A RUDGE (Hon sec Quiz League)

ANSWERS
1. Locomotive
2. Spike Milligan
3. Nick Faldo
4. Henry

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YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Rock 'n' roll

If you fancy a jive, why not put on your Blue Suede Shoes and go along to the OCLP club in Bryntirion on April 15, where there will be a warm welcome from Christine and John to their Rock 'N' Roll dance.

It promises to be a really lively night with the appearance of top rock singer, 'Rocking Dave Riley'. All proceeds from the dance will be donated to the Sandville Self Help Centre.

For further details ring Christine on 01656 669106.

Kenfig Society

THE annual general meeting of the Kenfig Society will be held in the Pyle Life Centre, Pyle on April 19 at 7.15 pm.

All are welcome to this meeting. For further details ring Terry Robbins on 01656 782351.

Gorican plans

LOCAL residents will be able to obtain the latest information on the Gorican Redevelopment from Lovell Partnerships Ltd, when they will be hosting a community information event in Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill on April 19 from 4pm-7pm.

It will be a great opportunity to meet the project team, look at the plans and discuss any queries you may have. Light refreshments will be provided.

Talbot Community Centre

EASTER – There will be an Easter bonnet parade and turkey dinner at the Luncheon Club, with prizes for the best Bonnets on April 22.

Party Time – Following their successful Christmas Party night, the Talbot is holding a Springtime cabaret night for the community on Saturday, May 14. The entertainment will be provided by a comedy duo, female vocalist, a disco and bar.

Co-ordinator Cheryl Butcher said that this promises to be a sell out, so to avoid disappointment contact her at the centre.

Royal Wedding – The Royal Wedding will be shown on the big screen in the community centre and celebrated with Bucks Fizz and a special lunch. This will be followed at 5.30pm with a kiddies royal day disco for children aged 4-10 inc. For details, telephone Cheryl on 01656 749754.

Pyle Community Council

FUN day – It is the intention of the council to have a fun day during the month of August.

The fun day committee, councillors L. Ellis, D. Williams, G. Hooper, K. John, G. Rogers and co-opted member Mrs Karen Evans, will meet on April 5 at the Talbot Community Centre to make a start on organising this event.



COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by **Richard Sims**

Telephone: 01656 746840

Mobile: 07802 439679

E-Mail: richardsims@talktalk.net

ing this event.

Bus shelters and litter bins – The location of the three new bus shelters has now been decided, with a full shelter being erected in the lay-by at Helig Fan, a simple shelter outside estate agents, Evans & Jones in Bridge Street and the third outside the vacant insurance office in Commercial Street. A litter bin will be located at the brick bus shelter, in Moria Place with a further two at Hazel Grove.

Great Poppy party weekend – An evening of entertainment in conjunction with the Talbot Community Centre is being arranged for the month of June, with meal and entertainment provided by a comedian and singer. All proceeds for this evening will be donated to the Poppy Appeal. Further details will be provided later in April.

Pupils rewarded

Congratulations to the following Mynydd Cynffig Junior School pupils who were nominated for impressing the staff at the school last week:

Jack Joy, Class 1, Meghan Evans, Class 2, Oliver Roberts, Class 3,

Leon Jones, Class 4, Anwen Sleath, Class 5, Kieran Williams, Class 6 and Lewis Blythe from Class 7. The head-teacher's award went to Emily Walters.

Congratulations also go to Jamie Chivers, Holly-Mai Evans, Connor Farnham, Dafydd Jones, Britney O'Neil, Lowri Thomas, Connor John, Lois Flower, Georgia Coleman and Cherie Hayden for their excellent behaviour during lunchtime last week and as a reward they will be joining Mr Goldsworthy for lunch.

Sport – On Thursday, March 17, the school took part in the New Directions football tournament at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff.

It was a six-a-side tournament for both boys and girls teams. Taking part for the boys team were: Jac Flanagan, Lloyd Thomas, Morgan Kent, Thomas Morgan, Jay Emery, Christopher Hairley, Jordan Baker and Ceiran Jones. The girls team were represented by Anwen Sleath, Lowri Thomas, Shauna Dunn-Jones, Megan Stevens, Taylor Dennis, Morgan Evans-Shaw, Senem Akpinar and Jade

Mitchell. In what was a very high standard of competition, the boys played four games in their group and although losing one game they were runners up to go through to the semi-finals. Due to some excellent team work, they won a tough semi-final by three goals to nil.

In a very exciting and close game they won the final by two goals to one.

Thanks to some fine goal scoring by Jade Mitchell, the girls qualified by winning all their matches. In another very tough semi-final, the girls progressed to the final beating West Park by one goal to nil, scored again by Jade.

Unfortunately, although they played really well in the final, they lost by three goals to nil.

Comic Relief – Everyone at the school made a tremendous effort last week with their costumes, hair and red noses when they dressed up for comic relief.

To add to the fun, there was a competition in each class to pick two winners of the fancy dress with each receiving a Cadbury's Cream Egg as a prize, and they were:

Class 1 – Sam Paul and Holly Mae-Evans; Class 2 – Ben Evans and Musawwir Afzal; Class 3 – Britney Griffiths and Scott Roberts; Class 4 – Leon Jones and Louie Flower; Class 5 – Kate Thomas and William Underhill; Class 6 – Jac Flanagan and Millie Evans; Class 7 – Alex Cavit and Morgan Evans-Shaw.

Everyone must be congratulated on their efforts as they raised a magnificent £382.50 in support of Comic Relief.

School choir – The school choir, along with choirs from other schools, have been asked to join the Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir for their 40th anniversary concert on July 16 in the Porthcawl Pavilion.

School canteen – Congratulations to the school canteen staff for achieving a Five Star Award from the Foods Standards Agency. This is the highest grade possible for food handling, hygiene and all aspects of the kitchen.

We are now on Twitter - follow us @gem_news

Find us on Facebook - just visit: www.facebook.com/gemnews

Picture by Steve Jones, Porthcawl.

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: **CLIVE MITCHELL**

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



Ostomy group

THE Ostomy clinical support group for people with bowel or bladder problems will be meeting in the residents block community hall of the Princess of Wales hospital on Friday, April 1 between 2pm-3.30pm.

Everyone is welcome. For details telephone Jackie on 07843 988432.

Evangelist MEMBERS of Horeb Baptist Chapel, Nantymoel

are inviting the public to a series of meetings with Evangelist Dr Dennis Petty, starting today (Thursday, March 31 to Sunday, April 3).

Thursday to Saturday meeting starts at 7pm; Sunday 11am and 6pm.

There will be choral accompaniments by Amelia Petty and other musicians.

Ladies choir OGMORE Valley

Ladies Choir and Society is holding its annual concert at Christchurch

Methodist chapel on April 6 at 7pm.

Guest choir is Cor Meibion Cwm Garw. All money raised will be donated to the choir's nominated charity of the year – Macmillan Nurses.

Hygiene rating

OGMORE Vale primary school has been recently assessed under hygiene ratings for local food outlets.

The standard of meals and cleanliness of the kitchen achieved the maximum rating of 5.

The school will be holding a book fair between April 5-8 3.15pm-4pm every day.

This gives responsible adults an opportunity to buy high quality books for their child, while at the same time raising money so that the school can buy books for the classrooms.

On April 8, children are being encouraged to come to school in fancy dress, the theme being from the 'circus'.

Along with other schools in the area, children are again having problems with head lice at the school.

These infestations have nothing to do with cleanliness, but it is recommended that responsible adults regularly comb and inspect a child's hair. If detected, they should seek medical advice.

Parc Terrace, Tondy

THE cottages in the

terrace were originally built for the workers at the old Tondy iron-works in the 19th century.

When the ironworks closed, they were occupied by workers mainly in the mining industry. Most of these workers, when the mining industry was shut down in the 1980s, used their redundancy money to purchase their homes.

Over a period of time, the occupants had modernised their homes by having extensions built, with bathrooms, indoor toilets, double glazing and central heating.

In 1999, Cadw decreed that Parc Terrace should be given a Grade 2 historic listing.

This immediately gave the residents financial and stressful worries, as most of these modernisation items did not conform to the requirements of the buildings grade 2 listing, eg roof gutters and down drain pipes had been replaced with PVC items not as originally cast iron.

The residents were expected to replace their windows with the sash type, which gave them immense problems, because of the internal stairway formation the only way they could renew large furniture upstairs was by removing these sash windows.

The residents are pleased to hear that a student at the University of Wales, Tina Lloyd, is taking a PhD course in social implications, and she has chosen as her thesis subject the plight of the residents in Parc Terrace.

The residents are hoping her studies will be used as a case reference.

WI meeting

THE recent meeting of Pen-y-Fai Women's Institute entitled

'Surprise' was opened by president Jean Griffiths, who welcomed members and announced birthday greetings.

PORTHCAWL NEWS IN BRIEF

THE new president of Porthcawl chamber of trade is Paul Fielding, who is a financial advisor and held the post several years ago.

He succeeds Lindsay Morgan, who has stepped down after two years. The new senior vice-president is local architect David Newton Williams.

PORTHCAWL Town Council has given consent for a jazz concert to take place on Newton Green on Monday, April 25, as part of the town's international jazz festival.

A small marquee will be erected to house the band.

THE council has agreed to pay £680, plus VAT, to BBCB for the supply of bedding plants, which will be planted on roundabouts and in flower beds in the town.

RNLI funds are in the Grove – thanks to Porthcawl golfers



JOHN ABRAHAM, chairman of Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat Station, has accepted a donation towards the RNLI from club captain and ladies captain of the Grove Golf Club.

It was raised by captain Keith Davies and ladies captain, Beverley Heatman's husband Clive, who both picked up sponsorship when they took part in last year's Porthcawl Christmas morning swim.

The hardy swimmers had raised a total of more than £1,300 and this was split between the RNLI Porthcawl and Wales Air

Ambulance.

John said: "As a charity, the RNLI relies totally on donations like this and it is very reassuring to know that people keep us in mind and help so much to keep our crews trained and equipped."

Lifeboat operations manager, Philip Missen MBE, said: "The crew are very aware of the costs involved each time they have a call-out."

"Each rescue is different and depends very much on the sea conditions at the time, they are confident knowing that the RNLI provides them with the very latest professional training and the most suitable lifeboats to meet the ever increasing demands of the service."

"Porthcawl's Atlantic 85 lifeboat, *Rose of the Shires*, is the fastest lifeboat type in the RNLI's fleet. This has proven to be a great asset to us and all those who use the sea around our part of the coast."

"Last year proved to be one of our busiest for call-outs, so donations of this type are greatly appreciated."

"Several of the crew recently received the latest RNLI training in the use of radio and navigation equipment, and Keith did tell me when he visited us that he was an ex-radio officer in the Merchant Navy, so he would know the benefits of this training."

Picture by Steve Jones, Porthcawl.

Mayor's surprise visit to 'Oklahoma'

MAYOR of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emmet-Lewis, a keen supporter of the arts scene, made a surprise visit to the Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society during rehearsals at the Hi Tide for their forthcoming presentation of *Oklahoma*.

To put on a successful production requires a great deal of preparation, practice and enthusiasm from all concerned – the performers, musical director, producer and all those faceless, but essential backroom staff.

The society will be presenting *Oklahoma* at The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl on April 27-30.

Pictures by KEITH E MORGAN



With the 'Girls in the Backroom' - Coun Mary Emmet-Lewis, discussing the logistics.



The Mayor, discussing the musical arrangement of 'Oklahoma' with Michael Plowman, musical director, and Ralph Thomas, producer.



The Mayor observes the all important task of the dress maker in measuring up the performers for their costumes.



The Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emmet-Lewis, joining in with the Cast of 'Oklahoma' for the well known overture.



Programmes from past performances of 'Oklahoma' given in 1964, 1977 and 1998 by the Porthcawl Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society.

College presents rock musical

FOR the third year, 2nd year music students at Bridgend College are writing and performing their own rock show, complete with an original soundtrack, in partnership with the Gathering music festival.

This year's production, 'Frozen Rock Nightmares' follows the story of legendary rockers frozen in time by an evil raving genius who then brainwashes the public with his dance music, and it's up to two fans of rock music to return order to the world.

A college spokesman said: "Past shows by the college have been popular and have received great feedback and this year's show

promises not to disappoint."

On sale will be the original soundtrack to accompany the show, written, recorded and mixed by students at the college over the course of the year, as well as two t-shirt designs to coincide with the show.

A main part of both the Musical Practice and Music Technology courses, this project attempts to train students to be entrepreneurial in the music industry.

The show will be on April 14-15, with an evening show on the 15th, with tickets on sale now at £4 (special deals available for large groups).

For tickets, contact Colin Richards at Bridgend College, email cmrichards@bridgend.ac.uk, telephone 01656 302381 / 07932 009425.

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Consultation will follow the sale of land at Porthcawl

REGENERATION officer Andrew Parry Jones attended the last meeting of Porthcawl Town Council to update members on what is happening with the Porthcawl scheme.

He confirmed that the Owners' Agreement with the Evans Families has been signed – as reported in last week's GEM.

He said that there were some matters to be cleared up before the way was cleared for the council to sign the deal to

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

sell part of the Phase One land to Chelverton Decey Freed for the development of a Tesco supermarket.

The deal will net the joint owners £6.5m in profit – of which £4.7, will go to the Evans' and £1.8m to BCBC taxpayers.

Mr Parry Jones said that once the sale of the land has been finalised, the council will launch various consultation measures including an exhibition and a special newsletter.

However, the borough does not intend to call a public meeting and its officers will not attend the one being planned by Porthcawl Town Council.

Coun Chris Smart told The GEM that the working party set up by the council to organise the meeting was getting together this week to decide how to proceed.

The group consists of himself, Alana Davies, Sean Aspey, Graham Walter and mayor Mary Emmett Lewis.

Coun Smart said that while a meeting would be held, there was no necessity to stage it straight away.

"We will have a discussion about this and will make a recommendation to full council. My own view is that if we have a meeting now, what benefit will it bring? If BCBC officers refuse to come – although we will invite them – who will be able to answer the questions that the public may have?"

"Town councillors do not know enough about what's happening to be able to stand up and give

a definitive answer."

Coun Smart felt it would probably be better to call a meeting when the plans for the new supermarket are unveiled and invite the developers to attend and answer questions.

"It is also very important that parking is retained at the Hillsboro Place car park for the sake of the traders in John Street. We must have assurances that there will be some parking retained even when the work is under way, otherwise the shops in the town centre will suffer."

"They are most anxious about this and we have already seen several close in recent months."

Coun Smart stated that members thanked Mr Parry Jones for his prompt response to their invitation.

"He came to the first available meeting after he received our invitation and we were very pleased that he did it so quickly. We hope he will make regular visits over the coming months to update us now that things are starting to happen," he added.

New post-master for Wick?

THE Vale MP has expressed disappointment that the Wick Village Shop will be closed from the end of this month.

Mr Cairns said that unfortunately, the proprietors of Wick Post Office have chosen not to continue providing the service.

The Post Office is searching for an alternative facility in the village.

The current sub-postmaster has resigned from post and is selling the village shop premises, as a result of which the Post Office had to close temporarily from March 30.

Mr Cairns said he had been assured by Post Office Ltd that it is their intention to keep a Post Office service in Wick.

The Vale MP said: "I was sorry to hear that the village shop will be closing at the end of this month, particularly after we'd worked hard last year in securing a reduction in business rates for the rural premises."

"I contacted the Post Office and will work with them to find a new sub-postmaster," he promised.

Red kiosk will promote heritage of Llangynwyd

THE traditional red telephone kiosk in Llangynwyd Village is to be preserved – thanks to the community council.

Llangynwyd Middle Community Council was invited to take over the kiosk by BT. It is a listed structure and cannot be removed.

But BT intends to take out the phone because of low usage. However, the council has decided to use the kiosk as a place to provide tourist information and literature to the many visitors who call at the hill top village which has its roots back in the sixth century.

The kiosk stands between two listed buildings – St Cynwyd's Church, which dates from Norman times, and the Old House public house, which goes back to the 11th century.

The village also boasts a Victorian post box which is sunk into the boundary wall of the church and is still in use. This is also listed.

Coun Malcolm James said that he supported the move: "We were offered the chance to take over the kiosk and I felt that we should do so in order to make sure that it is preserved. It is a part of our heritage."

"We have lost far too many of these red kiosks in this country. I suppose that with the rise in the number of mobile phones, the need for public telephones has diminished but at least

we can protect the kiosk."

*Work is under way on repairing the old viaduct in the Darren valley at Garth Fach. This brick structure was part of the old Port Talbot Railway line which used to run from Pontryhl in the Garw via Llanginor, Llety Brongu and Maesteg to Port Talbot.

It had its own railway station at Neath Road but passenger services stopped in the 1930s and it was used to transport coal from the Garw and Maesteg to Port Talbot until it closed in the 1960's.

The viaduct is a massive structure which straddles the Darren Valley and is a well known local landmark. The community council has been campaigning for years to get repairs done.

Coun James was pleased that its owners, Network Rail, were finally undertaking repairs: "The parapets have been in a dangerous state for some time and both ends have been blocked off to prevent people gaining access to it," he said.

"I understand that they are rebuilding the parapets and putting the coping stones back on top. It's a big job and it's covered in scaffolding at the moment."

There is no right of way across the viaduct or along the line of the old railway track, which is in private hands.

JAYNE ISAAC

Four arrests after fights on seafront

POLICE in Porthcawl arrested four youths after a series of fights broke out on Porthcawl's seafront on Saturday evening.

"It would appear a coach load of youths from the Rhondda area came to Porthcawl and were involved in fights and disorder involving Porthcawl and Bridgend youths," a police spokesman said.

A 17-year-old youth from North Cornelly, a 16-year-old youth from Bridgend and two 15-year-old youths from Porth and Tonypany had been released on bail.

Porthcawl Neighbourhood Inspector Alan James commented: "There were some minor injuries and four arrests were made as a result. Porthcawl is a popular family resort and this type of behaviour will not be tolerated."

£2.4MILLION REVAMP FOR BRIDGEND RAIL STATION

BRIDGEND Railway Station is to undergo a £2.4m revamp to improve accessibility.

A new footbridge with lifts is to be provided linking platforms 1 and 2 which will improve access, especially for the disabled.

Until now, disabled people wishing to catch trains from Platform 2 have had to arrange to have a gate opened for them from the Llynfi Street area which borders the station.

The upgrade is part of a national Access for All scheme being backed by the Department for Transport which aims to provide step-free access to 145 stations in the country.

The new footbridge and lifts will be well-lit

and covered by CCTV cameras to improve security for passengers. The platforms will also be upgraded with tactile paving.

Mark Langman, route director for Network Rail, said that Wales relies on rail so it was vital to provide facilities that make the railway easier to use as well as being safer and more accessible.

He added: "Whether you are lugging heavy bags, have small children in tow or simply find the stairs a bit of a struggle, the improvements to be made at Bridgend will make a real difference."

Bridgend AM and First Minister Carwyn Jones has welcomed the news: "I am glad that Bridgend will join a growing list of accessible stations across Wales. It

is absolutely essential that public transport is as accessible as possible."

Bridgend station was opened as part of the Great Western line in 1850 and serves 1.6m passengers a year. It is Grade 2 listed.

The existing footbridge is not fitted with ramps and passengers have to walk up flights of

steps and then down the other side to travel between the two platforms.

Disabled people can also be helped from platform to platform by staff taking them over a level crossing on the track.

The scheme is out to tender and work will start later this year.

JAYNE ISAAC

Expert Oli visits school

ENTREPRENEUR Oli Barrett (who created the original 'Make your mark with a Tenner' campaign, the precursor to Tenner Tycoon) visited Ysgol Gyfun Llanhari to encourage pupils' Tenner Tycoon enterprises.

He sampled the student trade fair from 12.30pm-1.20pm and

talked to the budding entrepreneurs about their products and Ogmores MP Huw Irranca-Davies also attended.

Oli, along with Clare Young (finalist in the TV show The Apprentice), are on a UK-wide tour of schools. They are both ambassadors for Tenner Tycoon.

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New bandstand for Bridgend?

A BANDSTAND may be erected on Newbridge Fields.

Bridgend Town Council has submitted schemes worth a total of £83,000 to enhance areas of the town. The Welsh Assembly Government is providing the funding under a revamped environmental quality grant programme.

The old bandstand, which was a brick and concrete raised structure, stood for many years in the fields, but has long gone, although it still gives its name to the Bandstand Field.

The town council has enhanced specifications for a new cast iron structure which would provide a roof, unlike the old one.

The bandstand would be reminiscent of those that graced every municipal park throughout the country from Victorian times onward.

Councillors feel that this could provide a focal point in the park and could be used for outdoor musical events.

The council would want to site it within an

area of flower beds or a rose garden. The cost is expected to be in the region of £40,000.

Other projects submitted are:

● The Coychurch Road allotment site where land between the outer fence and the plots could be landscaped and planted with 240 shrubs – estimated cost £2600

● Work to the Jubilee Road allotment site where there are environmental problems all around

● A project to enhance land at Dunraven Park and Wauvesil Avenue, costing £8000.

A decision on which projects are successful is expected this week and work would have to be done in the new financial year.

The scheme is fully grant aided which means that the town council will not have to put up any of its own money if any of its schemes are approved.

Grace's Gift: MARATHON RUNNER VIV!

A PORTHCAWL woman is to take part in the London marathon to raise funds for local charity Grace's Gift.

Vivien Bright is to make the run on April 17 in memory of baby Grace and baby Thomas.

Fundraising from her first London marathon will be used to continue the Kick Awareness campaign recently launched by Grace's Gift and the midwives working for Abertawe Bro Morgannwg.

It is aimed at raising awareness of foetal activity during pregnancy.

Every expectant mother more than 25 weeks pregnant is given a Grace's Gift wristband which acts as a reminder to her to be aware of her baby's movement and movement patterns.

Anyone wishing to sponsor Vivien can do so by visiting www.graces-gift.co.uk where more information is available.

Society lecture

COWBRIDGE and District Local History Society's final lecture of the season will take place tomorrow (Friday, April 1) at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

The lecture is 'The Destruction of the Cardiff Friars' by Richard Watson.

It will be followed by cheese and wine. All welcome!

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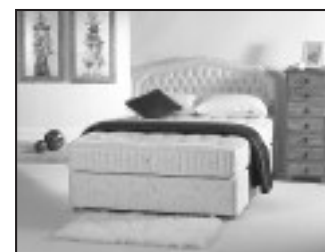
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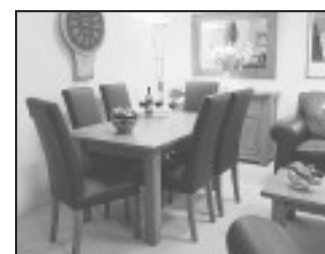
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TRADERS WELCOME NEXT PHASE OF REGENERATION TO TOWN CENTRE

PLANS to revamp part of Bridgend town centre under the next phase of regeneration have been welcomed by traders.

by JAYNE ISAAC

Bridgend's cabinet has approved proposals to turn upper Nolton Street one way, with traffic entering the town from the Cowbridge Road traffic lights. The one-way system will extend as far as the junction with Merthyr Mawr Road.

In their report, officers stated that making the street one-way will mean that pavements can be widened and parking and unloading bays created.

At the moment, the street has double yellow lines on both sides, which prevents motorists from parking near businesses along the street.

Lorries also have to block the road when they are unloading, causing traffic hold ups.

In the report to cabinet, officers stated that it was planned to create the parking and unloading bays and bring in limited waiting for motorists to boost trade at this end of town.

It says: "Not only should this help prevent the sort of obstructive loading and unloading which currently occurs along this road but it should provide the ability to introduce on-street limited waiting which should give a significant boost to trade in this area encouraging new and existing businesses to develop and attract new investment."



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WHAT THE TRADERS SAY...

Felicity Ladbrooke, who owns the Felicity's shoe, bag and jewellery shop at the junction of Brackla Street and Noltton Street, welcomed the news.

"It's great that something is being done to make it easier for people to get to our shops. Having limited waiting means that people will be able to park and just pop to the one shop they want to visit," she said.

"We need to work to make Bridgend a shopper-friendly environment and also make it easy for people to get into town in their cars."

Ms Ladbrooke said that she had been in busi-

ness at that site for 30 years and had full confidence in Bridgend.

"We recently invested a lot of money in upgrading the shop," she said. "Bridgend has a lot to offer. We have some fantastic shops but there is still potential for improvement and we would welcome any new businesses that open."

"People need plenty of choice in any town and the more shops we can offer, the better for all of us. This scheme should help to transform the upper end of Noltton Street and breathe new life into it."

Vicky Perks, who runs the Seren health shop in Noltton Street, is a former president of the chamber of trade and is now with the Bridgend Business Forum which has been consulted about the proposals.

"These changes will improve the flow of traffic into town and make access easier," she said. "Anything which makes it easier for people to get in here and then park is good for trade."

She said that traders had campaigned for the £1 parking fee on Wednesdays which was now up and running and they were hoping that this could be extended.

"A lot of what's happening now is what we have been fighting for over many years and it's good that the council have listened and taken on board some of our views."

"We have some cracking shops in town and promoting the upper end of Noltton Street will only add to the mix for shoppers."

Asda, which is located behind upper Noltton Street, has already brought people into that end of Bridgend especially as they can use the car park free for up to three hours.

Traders say that many people shopping at the store also take the chance to come into town and having a supermarket in the town centre rather than on an out of town site like most of the others has produced valuable spin-off for them.

Upper Noltton Street has a mix of businesses at the moment including an art gallery which sells works by local artists and an antique shop. There are also a number of shops providing services like hairdressing and fast food.

But in the past, the street had a number of prestigious businesses including the Roses gown shop which drew people from a wide area.

Traders hope that these proposals will help recreate that shopping environment and attract new businesses to that part of town.

The revamp, which is part of a £9m scheme, will include new pavements and street furniture to enhance the appearance of the whole area.

Linked to this part of Bridgend is the small cluster of shops in Ewenny Road, near the Five Bells. Traders there are hoping that if more shoppers are drawn to Upper Noltton Street, they will make the short hop across Cowbridge Road to reach their premises.

Several businesses have opened up in the former Terry Refell plumbing showroom and other businesses in that part of town include double glazing, an interior design shop and a jewellery business, again with potential for other businesses to open up.

It would be true to say that until now, the regeneration has been concentrated in the core part of Bridgend town centre but this additional money means that the peripheral areas around that core can also benefit and prosper.

The nearest village to that part of Bridgend – travelling south along Ewenny Road – is Ewenny itself, which has its own businesses including two potteries, pine furniture shop, nursery and a dress shop and hair salon, which draws its customers from a wide area.



Samantha B

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GARDEN CENTRE

Johnson's Faster takes you on a slow road to mediocrity!

SINCE swapping the span-dex for the big screen, Dwayne Johnson has made a decent fist of being a movie star.

Having taken his wrestling persona into the world of action with the likes of *Welcome To The Jungle* and *Walking Tall* (an underrated movie), Johnson then tried his luck, with varying success, in the cut throat world of the family film.

Now, having exhausted that world, Johnson returns to action with the fifth instalment of the *Fast and Furious* franchise next month, and this week in (no relation) *Faster*.

Johnson plays Driver, a recently-released felon out to avenge his brother's death after they were double crossed during a heist; however, Driver is being chased by a veteran cop (Billy Bob Thornton) and an eccentric hitman (Oliver Jackson-Cohen) who both want to get hold of him before he can unleash hell...

A pared-down narrative, simplistic characters with names like

Driver, Cop and Killer, and an over-reaching sense of familiarity that has much to do with those trashy B-movies from the 1970s, it's very clear to see what *Faster* is trying to achieve.

If handled with a degree of class and sophistication, then it can supersede its origins, to be something far more engaging and substantial; sadly, this isn't the case here.

Instead, you're left with the most pared-down of films that rarely offers you anything and as such makes for something of an inauspicious return to adult fare for Dwayne Johnson.

While he has proved since his transition from wrestling ring to film set that he has the charisma and physical presence to make for an engaging and tough actor, he gets very little opportunity to flex his acting muscles here.

This is a performance that hinges purely on Johnson fighting and killing his way through the people responsible for the death of his brother, and while it aims for a *Death Wish* vibe, Johnson is certainly no Charles Bronson.

While he handles the physical side of things with hard-hitting style, the largely dialogue-free performance is hardly

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

the shining turn he has previously offered up.

Old hand Billy Bob Thornton should be far too good for films of this ilk, but while he's here he doesn't slum it, instead delivering a solid turn as Cop, one that is given a degree of depth thanks to the script.

Thornton is always watchable, and his sad-sack detective, again while hardly original or career-best, isn't a woeful performance by any means.

The most intriguing character and performance is Oliver Jackson-Cohen, as a multi-millionaire hitman doing jobs purely for the adrenaline rush.

Afforded an interesting back story, and matched with a solid performance from the British actor,

Killer shines as the brightest character here.

Director George Tillman Jr certainly knows his way around a genre picture, given the stylistic ties that he offers here, the muscle cars, open roads and action sequences all holding a debt to their forbearers; but beyond that the direction is weak, lacking the pace the title suggests and feeling tired.

While his outing in the next *Fast and Furious* outing may well put Johnson back in the action saddle, *Faster* certainly won't. Johnson is better than material like this and can certainly offer more than is on show – consider this to be merely a warm-up for the big man's next assault on the action genre.

VERDICT – A mundane action film that demands little but gives less back, *Faster* is perfunctory brainless entertainment that has a few moments, but by and large trundles along at a mediocre pace.

Only Oliver Jackson-Cohen's quirky turn resonates and the end result is far from essential viewing. *Poor*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Death Wish*, *Shoot 'Em Up*.

Faster is on general release now.



PUPILS AND STAFF SEE RED ON COMIC RELIEF DAY...

PUPILS and staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant celebrated Comic Relief Day when they all wore red and made a donation towards the appeal.

Pupils who attend the after-school club also prepared cakes which they sold to parents and

children. In total the school donated £230.

Local AM Jane Hutt presented certificates to the 'Pupils of the Week' during the morning assembly and was entertained by the school choir.

Bu Mrs Jane Hutt ar ymweliad ag Ysgol Gymraeg Gwaun y Nant yn ddiweddar er mwyn dathlu

'Diwrnod Comic Relief'. Roedd yr ysgol gyfan wedi gwisgo mewn coch ac roedd lluo o weithgareddau diddorol yn digwydd yn ystod y dydd er mwyn codi arian. Caghydd £230 ar gyfer yr apel.

Cyflwynodd Mrs Hutt dystys-grifau i Ddisgyblion yr Wythnos yn ystod y gwasanaeth a chafodd ei dddanu gan gor yr ysgol.



LEFT: Winner Charlotte Martin, with Royal Mail delivery office manager, Paul Daniels, and postman, Philip Ansell (with glasses) and Charlotte's teacher, Kim Freeman.

Charlotte (9) puts her stamp on a first class writing prize

LLANCARFAN schoolgirl Charlotte Martin was awarded first prize in the Welsh final of Royal Mail's Young Letter Writer Competition 2011.

The theme for this year's competition was children's favourite books – a subject celebrated by Royal Mail through a set of stamps featuring AA Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh.

Charlotte (9), from Llanccarfarn Primary School, impressed the judges with her letter about Silky

the Fairy and the Land of Cupcakes.

Judge Val Boddin, Royal Mail Media Relations manager, said: "All the letters demonstrated real imagination. Charlotte's letter was particularly fun to read and she put her own stamp on the story. It was a delight to read her creativity in action."

Charlotte receives a £50 book token and a set of personalised Smilers® stamps featuring her own favourite photograph. She also receives a pack of letter writing goodies to share with her classmates.

Walk for Life raises £1,000



MORE than 70 local people, including the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, joined the Kidney

Wales Barry Walk for Life on Sunday morning, walking from Morrisons car park down Broad Street to the Knap and back, to raise over £1,000 for kidney research and patient care in Wales.

Organised by Debbie Baker, the annual Barry Walk for Life was enjoyed by all those who joined in, with children and dogs taking part as well.

ABOVE: Debbie Baker and Barry Walk for Life supporters in Morrisons car park, before setting off on their walk.

The AM commented: "This is such an important annual event, with walks taking place all over Wales raising funds and awareness about the importance of improving patient care and research to eradicate kidney disease which affects so many

families – including many on the Barry Walk for Life. "We got a good response from passers-by and the sponsorship raised over £1,000, which is a great contribution to vital funds for Kidney Wales," she reported.

Charity cheque

ELINOR HILLMAN – support worker for Action for Children, Barry and the Vale, received a cheque for £110 raised through the Christmas tree memorial tags and memorial carol service with A G Adams & Son, Funeral Directors, Barry.

Foster carers praised for their dedication

THE care and devotion given to children by Vale foster carers won warm praise recently from Vale AM Jane Hutt at a meeting held at the HUB in Barry to discuss SNAP (Special Needs Advisory Service).

Two foster carers, Jeff and Myra Phillips, are retiring after 46 years of service so there was a particular "thank you" for all the care they have given, recognised in the honours list when the couple both received the MBE.

The AM commented: "The unstinting care and commitment given

by foster carers like Jeff and Myra Phillips who have given 46 years of dedicated service to our children and young people who need that care is remarkable."

"They have changed the life chances and opportunities of so many children and as a society we owe so much to them."

School council grill regional AM

LOCAL pupils quizzed Plaid Cymru AM Chris Franks when St Andrew's Church in Wales school council during a visit to the National Assembly in Cardiff Bay.

Mr Franks, a former governor of the Dinas Powys school, said: "As a Dinas Powys resident, it was a pleasure to meet St Andrew's school council."

"I was quizzed with some tough questions from the schoolchildren. I highlighted the difference there would be after the Welsh general

election on May 5 now laws that only apply to Wales will be made in Wales by the National Assembly.

"I hope that the pupils and teachers enjoyed their visit and will come again to see the workings of Welsh democracy in the future," he concluded.

GROUP'S MEETING

BARRY and the Vale Osteoporosis support group will meet in the Mary Lennox Room in Barry Hospital on Wednesday, April 6 from 2pm to 4pm.

The speakers will be Dr Jane Turton and Sister Rosamund Broadbent from the Bone Research Unit at Llandough Hospital, Penarth.

New members or visitors would be most welcome. For enquiries, telephone 01792 881767.

Ty Hafan draw

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D623.

● The rollover, which now stands at £2,500, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 7078069.

● £10: 568069, 222582, 178703, 123606, 618751, 244825, 947014, 236138, 254426, 653386.

725355, 882983, 134566, 357450, 743665, 884777, 530136, 182518, 528023, 572018.

● £5: 601960, 393974, 686762, 697220, 837209, 188241, 412513, 896595, 156884, 805317, 126891, 395838, 711240, 208557, 468305.

389817, 686155, 313533, 784382, 495106, 130953, 294716, 337508, 700976, 558534, 671730, 835954, 709630, 339479, 664889, 369729, 752876, 141260, 568938, 853045, 194349, 475410, 140826, 805834, 623784, 402767, 862264, 771168, 497971, 984595, 500894, 572084, 345715, 558984, 395369, 120387, 626500, 408816, 104471, 243614, 611284, 445985, 573742, 888478, 445690.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Out and About with The GEM

Musicals stamp GEM winners

THE winners of our recent musicals stamp competition were:

Stephen Huxter, Barry; Jean M Chick, Penarth; E O Coles, Dinas Powys; Mrs G R Williams, Pyle; Linda J Pike, Porthcawl; Gwyneth Lewis, St Brides Major; Margaret Lamb, Cowbridge; Shan Llewellyn, Coychurch; Mrs A King, Pencoed; Mrs T Sobey, Bridgend; Mrs B Burden, Llantwit Major; Mrs M Bradshaw, Cowbridge; Mrs C Evans, Cwmbran; Mr A Grainger, Dinas Powys; W E Dunn, Sully; Mrs L Cox, Barry; Mr Chris Spear, Penarth; Mr Lyndon Thomas, Pyle; Wilma Smith, Porthcawl and P Jones, Cowbridge.

Congratulations to you all. Watch out for more great GEM competitions!

OCEAN LOUNGE

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OPEN:
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DAVE MONROE (vocalist)
Plus BINGO

Saturday, 9th April
BOBBY LEE RAY (vocalist)
Plus BINGO

Saturday, 16th April
GREG COLLINS (vocalist)
Plus BINGO

SUNDAY ROAST £6.95
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Booking Advisable

Bookings now being taken for MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday, April 3rd
3 course meal - £9.95
plus pianist/violin
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EVERY SUNDAY from 2pm
To find us - click directions@
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Eye Candy Boutique

Celebrate their First Anniversary on Saturday 2nd April

and would like to invite you to come and view their Spring/Summer collections.

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An invitation to you...

WHAT'S ON/ IN AND AROUND YOUR AREA

Art society exhibition

ON April 2, Porthcawl Art Society will be opening its Spring Exhibition.

Categories will be oil or acrylic, sketching or pastel. This will be in conjunction with a coffee morning (10.30am until noon).

Porthcawl Art Society will also be holding a sale of art material, new and second hand.

This will take place from April 14-16, 10.30am - 4pm. Both events are in the society's rooms, above Porthcawl Museum, John Street.

Photo display

BARRY at Work and Play, a pictorial exhibition by Tom Clemett, will be held from April 4 to May 8 at The Room in the Park, Victoria Park, Cadoxton, Barry (10am-4pm). Admission free.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, April 3 at 2.30pm 'Up the Ely Valley' starting from St Peter's Church,

Peterston-super-Ely (reference ST 08374); contact 07854 526117 (Phil).

On Thursday, April 7 at 1.30pm, Cosmeston Lakes and countryside, starting at the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park; contact 07765 432676 (Babs).

On Sunday, April 10 at 1.45pm, New Beaupre circular, starting outside the church in St Hilary; contact 01446 749000 (Di and Lynda).

Question time

PENDOYLAN Community Council hosts a meeting with

candidates standing for the Vale seat in the forthcoming Assembly election, in Pendoylan War Memorial Hall at 7.30pm on April 5.

Participants include: Jane Hutt - Labour; Ian Johnson - Plaid Cymru; Damien Chick - Liberal Democrat; Angela Jones-Evans - Conservative.

Art society

ON Thursday, April 7 at 7pm in Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge Art Society welcomes back Sue McDonagh, well-known local artist, who will be giving a demonstration using pastels.

Non members welcome.

Hospital for animals

THE Brooke Hospital for Animals (Vale of Glamorgan Supporters' Group) will hold a coffee morning on Wednesday, April 13 at 10.30am in Llantrithyd House, Llantrithyd, near Cowbridge.

Entry £3, including coffee and biscuits: home produce, cake stall, raffle; by permission of Mr and Mrs Paul Dolan.

Proceeds to Brooke Hospital for Animals.

Contact Alex Rees 01446 781286 or Joy Rees 01446 781955.

Free Welsh courses

'Ti a Fi' parent toddler groups in Bridgend are offering six-week basic

Welsh language courses for free!

The course is called Cymraeg o'r Crud (Welsh from the cradle) and is a special taster course for parents of babies 0-11 months old (but it is popular with older siblings as well!).

The course is organised by MYM in partnership with Cymraeg i Oedolion/Welsh for Adults.

Call Lou Stevens-Jones on 07966 321764 for details: the course is free; entry to the Ti a Fi groups ranges from £1 to £1.50 per family, including refreshments for all.

Dyspraxia support

THE next meeting of the Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will be held on Monday, April 4 at 7.30pm in the Civic Offices, Holt Road, Barry, CF63 4RU.

The group supports children and young people with dyspraxia (as well as related conditions such as dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome, OCD and

Tourettes) and their parents and carers by providing advice and information as well as an opportunity to exchange experiences.

The Vale Dyspraxia Support Group operates a 24-hour help and advice line on 01446 738945 and a website, www.vdsg.org.uk.

It also runs social activities and a laptop loan programme.

TW

Air society's talk

WHAT causes the weather? David Ephraim will be explaining, in his talk 'Pilot's Weather' at the next meeting of Penarth Aviation Society on Friday, April 1.

Familiar as one is with terms like 'low pressure' and 'high pressure', and tapping the barometer and blaming the BBC forecasters for

getting it wrong, few of us can make much of an educated guess about what's likely to happen.

As an experienced glider pilot who needs to know what weather he is flying into, David Ephraim will be passing on some useful information.

Penarth Aviation Society meets on the first Friday of every month in Penarth Conservative Club at 7.45pm for 8pm. Visitors are welcome.

Toy fair comes to Penarth

FOLLOWING the success of the very first Cardiff show in January, the second great event (of four per year) is taking place at the same venue in Penarth on Saturday, April 2.

The toy and train sale will operate from 10.30am until 3pm and a large number of traders have already booked their tables ensuring that this is a major show and one of the largest of its type in Wales.

There is ease of access to the venue from all directions, good parking and an excellent

caterer which helps to make this a very special fair. There is the added bonus of a busy railway line virtually alongside the venue with Cogan Station a few steps from the toy fair.

There is also a local bus service, while those arriving by car can reach the venue easily from both Cardiff, and from J33 on the M4.

A wide range of traders are taking part, with many specialists in model railways, dioramas, tin toys, plus books and other associated material.

Such famous names as Hornby, Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, Tri-ang,

Britains, Wrenn, Lima, Bachmann and many more will be on sale and it should not be forgotten that the stall-holders are also very happy to buy and to exchange, as well as selling.

Organiser Chris Dyer said: "Our customers should raid their cup-

boards and attics and bring along any surplus items; they might have greater value than they thought."

For more information, call 01643 702757 or 07966 694579; website www.chrisdyerfairs.co.uk.

GREAT NEW SHOW... CARDIFF TOY & TRAIN SALE

SATURDAY, 2nd APRIL, 2011
10.30am - 3.00pm
Penarth Leisure Centre, Andrew Road, Cogan, Penarth, Cardiff CF64 2NS
Travel by train - Cogan Station next to Venue!
BUY ★ SELL ★ EXCHANGE
Many top dealers in Dinky, Corgi, Matchbox, EFE, Lledo, Britains, Hornby Trains, Bachmann, Lima, etc. and much, much more - 80 plus tables
Admission £1.50 - Child/OAP £1.00
Enquiries: 01643 702757 or 07966 694579
E-Mail: dyer@minehead46.freemove.co.uk
Website: chrisdyerfairs.co.uk
Promoted by Chris Dyer, Minehead, Somerset, UK

JUNE DAY PSYCHIC FAYRE

Top International Clairvoyants will be available for private readings all day and night
Tuesday 5th April, 2011
The Ship Hotel
Harbour Road, BARRY CF62 5SB.
A day of Tarot, Psychometry, Clairvoyance, etc.
Books • Crystals • Tarot Cards all on sale
Doors open 1-5pm; re-open 6-10pm.
Admission £2.50
Enquiries Tel: 0777 597 2998

Local well-established organiser urgently requires
HOST FAMILIES FOR SHORT TERM FOREIGN STUDENTS
during the Spring and Summer in the Vale of Glamorgan.
Tel: Louise Jones on 02920 215158

Mount Sorrel Hotel

Saturday, 23rd April
Michael Bublé Tribute
2 Course Buffet
Breaded chicken, home baked carved ham, salads, seasonal desserts and more
plus Disco til 2am - £22

More Tribute and Themed Nights
June 18th, August 20, October 29th, November 26th
Please call for details

Mother's Day
Sunday 3rd April
Traditional Sunday Roast
Three Courses £17.50
Free Gift for Mum
Booking Essential

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www.bw-mountsorrelhotel.co.uk
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Bring the family
Bank Holiday Easter Weekend
22-25 April 2011
Buddy Greco • Syd Lawrence Orchestra
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National Youth Jazz Orchestra
and many, many more
Stroller tickets £5 (under 12s FREE)
www.porthcawl-jazz-festival.com
Tel: 01656 815995

THE BARRY SAILOR WHO WON A RARE GALLANTRY AWARD

Local military historian and headteacher of St Cyres Comprehensive School, Dr Jonathan Hicks, tells the story of one Barry man's courage during the First World War.

The recent award of an Australian Victoria Cross to an Australian soldier serving in Afghanistan prompted me to look back at my records of local men who won gallantry awards during the two world wars of the last century.

The Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (CGM) was instituted in 1855. It was made of silver with a white ribbon with dark blue edges (RN) or sky blue (RAF). The obverse was an effigy of the reigning monarch and the reverse had the words 'FOR CONSPICUOUS GALLANTRY' in three lines within a crowned laurel wreath.

Conceived as the naval counterpart to the DCM, it was instituted for award to petty officers and seamen of the Royal Navy. It ranks as one the rarest decorations – only 110 being issued during the reign of George V.

In October 1918, a large gathering of people assembled at the Theatre Royal in Barry to witness the presentation of the Conspicuous Gallantry Medal to Leading Seaman David George Rees, Royal Navy, the son of Mr and Mrs D Rees of 'Socotra', Tynewydd Road, Barry.

Colonel J A Hughes,



Leading Seaman David G Rees.

in the course of his remarks, stated that the medal had been awarded to Rees on account of his brave and gallant conduct in the recent raids on Ostend.

While acting as coxswain, Rees steered motor launch 254 alongside the *Vindictive*, which was being sunk to block the harbour, and succeeded in carrying off the crew.

He held the launch alongside in a most intrepid manner and the survivors of the *Vindictive* attributed their rescue entirely to his skill and pluck. As the small craft was being steered back amid a hail of bullets, officers and men were killed throughout.

He took a conspicuous part in both raids on Ostend and had also taken part in the previous raid at Zeebrugge.

A survivor from the *Vindictive*, when interviewed, said: "If it had not been for him, none of us would have been here. Rees, though machine-gun bullets were dropping like hailstones all around him and was badly wounded, stuck to the wheel and kept the launch alongside until he got the order to sheer off when the last man had been taken from the cruiser."

"Then he steered her out through a stream of machine-gun fire, never taking his eyes off his job or leaving his post for an instant. As he was hit in the arm and shoulder, it must have been agony for him to have held on to the wheel all this time and swung a heavy launch about, but he did it."

Colonel Hughes went on to say that before joining the Navy, Leading Seaman Rees was apprenticed as a pilot to Mr E J Ford of Barry Docks, under the Pilotage Board, and both Mr Ford and the Pilotage Board wish to make him a presentation.

HMS *Vindictive*.



Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

Mr Ford presented him with a silver cigarette case and the Pilotage Board with a framed letter of congratulation and appreciation.

Further presentations were a silver mounted walking stick on behalf of the Barry Sea Scouts, of which he was formerly a member, and a wristwatch by the staff and scholars of his former school, Gladstone Road.

Mr Lloyd-Jones, the headmaster, in making the presentation on behalf of the school, congratulated Rees on his distinction and spoke very highly of him as a boy.

He was once awarded a special prize for seven years' unbroken attendance. Rees modestly and appropriately responded and was loudly and continuously cheered.

The attack on Zeebrugge had taken place on April 23, 1918. The *Vindictive* came under heavy fire as she approached the Mole. It had been intended to stop the *Vindictive* directly in front of the German guns. Instead, she came to a halt three ships' lengths away from their targets.

It then proved to be unexpectedly difficult to get the ship close enough to the Mole to allow the troops across, and so she had to be rammed on the starboard side by the ferry-boat *Daffodil*.

When the marines and seamen did get onto the Mole, they discovered that there were German machine gun positions and barbed wire between them and the guns.

They also came under fire from a German destroyer docked on the other side of the Mole. The foretop guns were soon put out of action, and the superstructure of the *Vindictive* almost totally destroyed.

The landing parties suffered very heavy casualties. However, they did succeed in dis-

tracting the Germans at a crucial moment, and two of the three blockships were able to reach their target.

They were sunk in the entrance to the inner harbour, but didn't block it. The Germans were able to dredge a new channel around the blockships, and the port was very quickly back in use.

The attack on Ostend, unfortunately, failed to achieve the same level of success. It was then decided to launch a second attack, this time using the badly damaged *Vindictive* as one of two blockships.

The attack was made on May 10. Once again the *Vindictive* came under heavy fire. On the way in, her captain, Commander Godsal, and her navigator were both killed.

She then ran aground at the channel entrance, and could not be moved. She was sunk in place, blocking one third of the channel.

Once again, the mission failed to prevent German submarines from using the harbour, but the two attacks did raise morale in Britain at a crucial moment in the war.

Jonathan Hicks's new crime novel 'The Dead of Mametz' is to be published by the Welsh Books Council in May. Copies can be ordered now through booksellers or Amazon.

Girls' reunion is a great success at local venue

THE Mount Sorrel Hotel was the venue for the fourth reunion for girls of Barry County Grammar School who attended between the years 1959-1966.

There were 70 ladies who came to lunch and several more came for tea and to meet the guest of honour Miss Mary Young Smith, who formerly taught chemistry at the school.

Miss Young Smith, now 90 years old, was the only teacher who was able and/or courageous enough to come to the reunion, as it must have been daunting to meet so many old pupils.

However, she was a fantastic sport and thoroughly enjoyed herself. Monika Jones (Lloyd) gave a short speech of welcome, along with a roll of those who are no longer with us, and then

went on to introduce Miss Young Smith who, on being presented with a bouquet of flowers, stood to give a short speech of thanks, which was very well received.

Then Denise Pickett (Prater) the former head girl, gave a vote of thanks and presented, on behalf of everyone present, a beautiful bouquet of flowers to Monika as a thank you for organising the reunion.

Janet Whitehead (Neale) got everyone to stand for a spirited rendition of the school song and it was surprising how well everyone remembered the words once the singing began. Sue Gregory (Garwood) even brought her own school song book with the words she had originally copied out so we knew what we were singing. Mount Sorrel had provided a wonderful meal and lunching together gave everyone time to



MISS YOUNG SMITH.

have long chats with erstwhile friends before the mingling took place. Ladies had come from the four corners of Britain (and Spain) as well as Barry and Cardiff, and many friends had not seen one another for many years. The feedback, via email, phone and post, has been tremendous and extremely positive and everyone has expressed their enjoyment of the event and interest in the next reunion.

September 2013 marks the centenary of the opening of the girls' school and it has been decided to hold a reunion for any former pupil who attended the school between its inauguration and its close in 1974. To register interest, email centenaryreunion13@hotmail.co.uk as the event will be a ticketed affair to cover hiring costs of the hall. Information will be sent out nearer the event.

MJ

NEWS FROM YSGOL GYMRAEG SANT CURIG



Watch out there are newshounds about!

Re-discovering local rural riding routes

THREE RIDE OUT TO RIDE THE TRAIL...



PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY resident Paige Sherreard (15) and her friends Izzie Morgan (11) and Eva Wilcox (11) were riding their ponies so much on busy roads that Paige decided to find out if there were any local bridleways.

She contacted the Vale Council to find out whether there were any nearby and Susan Thomas from the council was very helpful.

She made enquiries and discovered a few bridlepaths close to where the girls keep their ponies. The three girls were keen to explore them and discovered, that although

overgrown, the bridleways were rideable.

Paige contacted Mrs Thomas to see if any help could be made available to clear the routes and was delighted to hear that the bridleways should be tidied up in time for the summer.

Paige commented: "We don't really mind riding on the roads and most drivers are very careful around the ponies, but it isn't ideal!"

"We have really enjoyed discovering the bridlepaths and look forward to the summer and being able to explore them further and being able to share them with other riders!"

School's cub reporters are on the case!

PUPILS from years-3 to 6 recently published their first school newspaper called 'Sgw'.

The 'Press Gang', led by year-6 teacher Matthew Mcavoy, were split up into groups with pen and notebook in hand and sent on scooping missions in the school.

They spoke to teachers about events in the school, past and present, wrote fact files about teachers, there was a

short story to enjoy as well as reporting on any sporting or fundraising events.

The paper was well received by pupils and staff. Editor Tion Davies, a pupil in year-6, said: "We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and all the staff helped with useful and interesting information."

"We've already begun to collect ideas for our next issue of Sgw."

Rotary quiz in Dinas Powys

THE Rotary Club of Dinas Powys is organising a village quiz in Dinas Powys Parish Hall on Friday, April 8 at 7.30pm (for an 8pm start).

The quiz will raise funds for local charities. Teams are restricted to four persons, but there is no limit on the number of teams that may be entered. Entry is £20 per team, which will include a light supper. Beer, wine and some soft drinks will be available on the night.

For further information, contact Shaun Doyle or Natalie Crosby on 02920 330885 or office@ivor-fire.co.uk.

CM

YOUNG VOICES SPEAK OUT AT THE OPENING OF THE VALE YOUTH FORUM



THE Vale Youth Forum (VYF) was officially launched in Barry recently.

The VYF is a new network for young people between the ages of 11 and 25 who live in the Vale of Glamorgan. Adolescents are encouraged to join the organisation and have a say in how their communities are shaped for the future. The VYF meet up at least once a month to highlight the views of young people and organise how to present them to the Vale Council and Welsh Assembly Government to encourage change.

Elected individuals from youth groups and schools across the Vale

Report by JO PRICE

attended the opening.

Their intention was to introduce themselves and express their opinion on a particular community issue before an audience of councillors, trustees, politicians, friends and family.

Tracey Downes, temporary VYF co-ordinator, informed The GEM that the facilitators of the VYF had been preparing their ideas since their first meeting on December 16. She has played an important role in recruiting members of the VYF by approaching the heads of schools and youth centres.

Sharon Topazio, a trustee of the VYF, said

it was "great to see the representatives up on stage after they had been so busy rehearsing."

Dionn Meredith said that being part of a youth group and the VYF gave them all the "confidence to speak up."

Vale councillor, Gordon Kemp, described the youth forum as "fantastic."

Mr Kemp said the VYF's "interest and involvement in the community" made its participants reflect the values of PM David Cameron's 'big society' concept.

Jess, a member of the VYF's editorial group and youth group 'Funky Dragon' said: "It is our right to have our voices and opinions heard."

This sentiment was echoed later on by Keith Towler, the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

Mr. Towler referred to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in his speech and fully supported the work of the VYF in enabling children's voices to be heard.

He said: "There is nothing more powerful than when young people speak for themselves." He encouraged councillors to "work with young people" and told the VYF members that they "represent the future and here and now."

The young people had focused their discussions prior to the opening on sub-categories, the first being 'things that annoy us.'

Candy said the "cost of public transport was too expensive for youth in the Vale."

Ellis's concern was that, "vandalism ruins the places where we live". Emme wanted to "improve the impression of youth in the Vale."

Another concern of VYF members was 'lack of facilities.' Sian wanted to "improve sports facilities because there isn't enough for young people to do".

Thomas wanted local

councils to improve the condition of his local park. "Fencing in the park would stop us losing the ball," he said.

Scott wished he could "stop people hanging around the streets."

The third sub-committee was to prevent bullying. Chloe asked for there to be "more peer support groups in schools so pupils have someone to talk to and not feel alone".

The VYF members are currently working on a film called the 'Rights Busters.' It aims to raise awareness of the prejudice suffered by those with learning difficulties and disabilities.

Michael Owen explained that the film will feature superheroes that rescue individuals with learning difficulties from difficult social scenarios.

Additional publicity for the work of the VYF is managed online via the website www.swoosh.me.uk by a dedicated media team that records every meeting and event and aims to encourage more young people to take part.

Jane Hutt AM praised the VYF as a "launch pad for great things in the Vale" in the final speech of the night. She said she wanted the "youth forum to hold us to account as politicians".

The next step for the VYF is to recruit a full-time youth co-ordinator. It was a plea raised by VYF member, Connor, and several others throughout the evening.

The VYF has recently put in a request to the Vale Action Scheme through the Vale Council for three years funding to pay the wages of a full time youth co-ordinator.

The project wants to ensure the VYF members receive as much support as possible for their work and can continue to make progress. No decision has been made regarding the request as yet.

New chief

NatWest has appointed a senior bank manager for Glamorgan, to take charge of the bank's 10 local branches.

Marlene Harries, who has been a senior bank manager for outer Cardiff and is a Welsh speaker, will be responsible for the bank's main branches in Bridgend, Barry, Cowbridge, Porthcawl and Penarth. She will also oversee its sub-branches in Pencoed, Llantwit Major and Dinas Powys.

Wick YFC dinner-dance

WICK Young Farmers Group is holding its annual dinner dance at the Heronston Hotel, Bridgend, on Saturday, April 9 at 7pm. Contact Katie Evans on 07539 796420 or www.ickyfc.co.uk

Skin Studio of Penarth

Skin Studio - Keeping clients smooth this summer

We at Skin studio appreciate that the summer is coming and everyone wants the perfect beach body and who are we to get in the way!

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ABOVE: The Vale Council Leader Gordon Kemp.



ABOVE: Vale AM Jane Hutt.



ABOVE: Michael Owen and Dionn Meredith.



LEFT: Keith Towler, the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

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High-flying Mike gets a lift on Goodyear 'blimp'



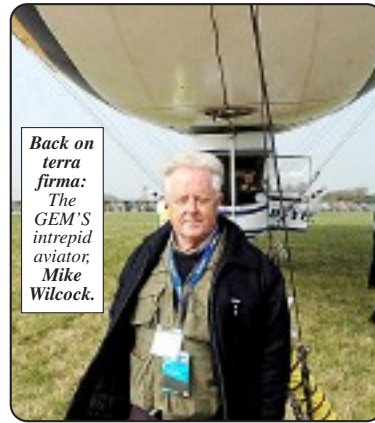
ABOVE: The Goodyear blimp in all its glory.
BELOW: Penarth Pier as seen from the 'blimp'.



MANY people in the Vale saw the 'Goodyear blimp' touring the skies over the weekend, and GEM photographer Mike Wilcock (below) enjoyed a trip earlier this week.

Mike has done planes, trains and automobiles in the past, but an airship was a new experience for him. As you can see, among the sights captured by Mike from the air was Penarth Pier.

The idea behind the 'blimp' is to promote road safety and it is the first time it has been in Europe for more than 10 years.



Back on terra firma: The GEM's intrepid aviator, Mike Wilcock.

Jasmine joins St John cadets at the Palace

FOURTEEN St John Wales' youngsters were meeting the Princess Royal at a special reception for young achievers in Buckingham Palace yesterday (Wednesday, March 30).

They were invited to the reception hosted by Princess Anne, Commandant-in-Chief (Youth) of St John Ambulance, for achieving their Grand Prior Award.

This is the highest award a St John Ambulance cadet can achieve and marks at least three years of sustained effort studying 24 different subjects, including working in the community, outdoor pursuits and first aid.

Among those being recognised was 17-year-old Jasmine Vincent of Barry, who has recently returned from Zambia after being part of a group which trained more than 3,500 people in lifesaving first aid skills.

Jasmine worked hard to achieve her Grand Prior award and has been a dedicated member of the Barry division since she was six.

She said: "The best part about being a member is being offered fantastic opportunities and having the ability to really make a difference in my community."

Jasmine knows how important it is to learn first aid skills, after helping casualties who were involved in a road traffic accident at Penarth last year.

"I helped by reassuring the casualties and waited with them until the ambulance arrived. "I also encouraged them to lie down and to elevate the limbs that were bleeding," she recalled.

Dr Bob Broughton, chief commander for St John Ambulance in Wales, said: "I'm delighted that we are able to send so many young members to the Palace to meet Her Royal Highness Princess Anne.

"It's so pleasing that we have so many exceptional representatives going from all over Wales to such a prestigious occasion."

St John Wales has a vibrant and growing youth movement – 70 per cent of its 4,900 volunteers are under the age of 25.

The charity is committed to offering young people a wide range of opportunities and organises a series of international and national events every year.

To become a member of St John Wales, or to find out about a division near you, contact 029 2044 9600.



PICTURED (left to right): Jackie Memory, Lauren, president Judith, and Christina.

Praise from Soroptimists

SINCE 1996, to mark the centenary of secondary education for girls in Barry, members of Soroptimist International Barry and District, have presented a Cup to a Bryn Hafren school student who has made an outstanding contribution to the community.

As in previous years, possible recipients are suggested by club member and sixth form learning manager, Jackie Memory.

This year, members were asked to choose between Lauren O'Connell and Christina Brown.

Lauren hopes to study genetics at university, and her achievements include raising money for the British Heart Foundation and Great Ormond Street Hospital, running the year-7 eco group in school, and group in school, and training as a 'snowy owl' to enable her to

assist at her local Brownies.

Christina, who has applied to do a degree in environmental health in university, has raised money for Help for Heroes and will be doing a sky dive in May for this charity.

In her role as sixth form charity co-ordinator, she is excellent at motivating students and staff in varied projects from collecting bras for Senegal, to Christmas food hampers for the elderly, and shoe boxes for children abroad.

Members were unable to choose between these two remarkable young ladies, and club president, Judith Lewis, was delighted to jointly present the Cup, together with a cheque for £30 cheque, to each of these worthy recipients.

To find out more about us, visit www.soroptimist-gbi.co.uk/barry-and-district.

Bryn Hafren pupils on their 'upcycling' expedition.



'Upcycling' fashion show is all in aid of local charity

BRYN Hafren pupils are putting their fashion sense to good use to help a local charity.

Miss Morgan, Mrs Saleem (PCGE student) and the year-10 textiles class have been working with the George Thomas Hospice for a future in-house fashion show (date to be confirmed).

Pupils visited the charity's shop to find garments that they could 'upcycle' and revamp into new fashion garments to model on the catwalk.

The pupils are going on an exciting trip to a celebrity fashion show at the Hilton Hotel where they will learn how a show is run and find inspiration for their own

show. Some pupils have even been given the opportunity to model at the show!

Once the final garments have been made, they will contribute towards the pupils' final

mark in their coursework portfolio. George Thomas in Barry have agreed to display the result in their shop window to demonstrate how DIY fashion can be trendy and fashionable.

The pupils from Miss Morgan's textiles group will be making a donation to the charity and wanted to say a big thank to the George Thomas Hospice!

Vale AM supports Atal y Fro on 'Women's Day'

Joining the Atal y Fro International Women's Day event at the Mount Sorrell Hotel, Jane Hutt AM gave a speech on the centenary of International Women's Day.

The talk focussed on the recent challenges for women in the Vale and Wales, specifically, the threatened closure of the Vale Magistrates Court, which has a domestic abuse court, and the UK Government cuts in spending which could have an impact

on benefits and services important to women.

Jane Hutt said: "The Atal y Fro approach to tackling domestic abuse is pioneering. It is all about prevention and education as well as supporting the victims of abuse."

"I was delighted to speak at the event, applaud their work and help promote the 'Walk a Mile in Women's Shoes' organised by Atal y Fro and Barry Comprehensive school students at King Square."

Sober message on a fun day: 'No place for domestic abuse'

PHOTOS by PAUL JONES
For more pictures, go to: www.valeevents.co.uk

ON Saturday, March 26, a fun event was held in King Square Barry, but with a serious intent behind it.

Atal y Fro, local politicians and members of the public were keen to broadcast the message – "There is no excuse for domestic abuse".

Not only did the participants have a good time, passers-by were interested in what was being said, too.

BEST FOOT FORWARD!





SPRUCE UP YOUR HOME THIS SPRING

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Now is the time to give your house that 'wow' factor

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able! They are experts in creating a relaxing living space in which you can unwind, chill out and enjoy the view.

A spokesman explained: "We work with our clients to design a space that suits their lifestyle and creates an area for the whole family to enjoy."

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suits your budget and we will take care of every detail, from planning to all those important 'wow' factor finishing touches."

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At the first hint of summer sunshine and lighter evenings, people are keen to make the most of their gardens – and then start to get creative in terms of how they can make their outdoor space more attractive.

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herringbone block paths or a fully landscaped garden – a knowledgeable, professional team can transform the front or back of your house

A Nick Stout spokesman said: "Our dedication to quality ensures our work looks fantastic, and will continue to do so for years to come."

"For this reason, we are happy to guarantee the work carried out by our uniformed, fully insured team of professionals."

To contact Nick Stout Paving & Landscaping and arrange a free consultation, call 0290 20711364, or 07973 873965.

'This Morning by Prestige' arrives in Leekes stores

PRESTIGE, one of the nation's most recognised names in kitchenware, and ITV1's flagship daytime programme, *This Morning*, have teamed up to create an exciting new kitchen collection, which is available at Leekes.

The 'This Morning by Prestige' collection has been designed to 'make life a little easier'. The collection includes an aluminium non-stick saucepan set and pressure cooker, high performance non-stick bakeware and a stunning collection of oven to tableware.

The aluminium three-piece saucepan set is designed for the everyday chef, this non-stick is extremely durable.

'Soft touch' handles provide a comfort grip, whilst the glass lids allow for 'see through' cooking convenience. They are suitable for all cooker types, except induction.

The pressure cooker is the perfect way to cook healthy meals in a fraction of the time of conventional cooking.

The oven to tableware is designed for microwave, refrigerator and freezer use. Each item is also dishwasher safe and comes with a five-year guarantee.

The bakeware collection gives excellent heat conduction, with snazzy purple silicon grips providing secure handling when placing in and out of your oven. The non-stick coating allows for easy food release.

The 'This Morning by Prestige' collection is available in-store and online at leekes.co.uk from April 2011.



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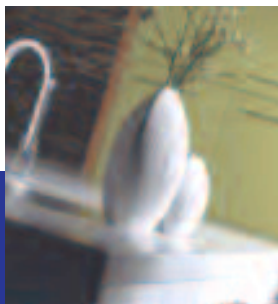
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THE PETERSTON MATHS WORKSHOP GOES WITH A SWING FOR PUPILS AND PARENTS

RECOGNISING the importance of mathematics, the parents and pupils at Peterston Primary School took part in a three day workshop ending on March 11.

The basic methods of teaching the subject were discussed and demonstrated by pupils before parents joined in the projects through computer programmes, games and examples.

The sessions went with a real swing, with parents enjoying it as much as the pupils.

**PHOTOGRAPHS by
IAN DIXON**



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School choir joins adults for a very special concert



PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN.



ABOVE:
The children choir were in fine voice.

LEFT:
The Kenfig Hill Male Voice Choir.

BELOW:
Patricia Reardon and Margery Langdon were on the door, resplendent in their traditional Welsh costumes

THERE was a strong Welsh influence and flavour at The Grove Golf Club for a concert given by the Kenfig Hill and District Male Voice Choir.

Guest conductor Geraint John was joined by accompanist Andrew Chinnock and compère John Downs, and the soloist was Robert Tremlett.

The children's choir from Ysgol yr Fech o'Sger also performed under their conductor Gareth Davies and were accompanied by head-teacher Rhiannon Dixon.

Carys Evans played the harp to welcome guests at the concert in honour of St David.



Carys Evans of Ysgol yr Fech o'Sger, played the harp to welcome the guests.



PORTHCAWL IN THE PAST – CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE STREET PARTY?



Victims forgotten in the world today

DO prisoners have the right to vote? Absolutely not! By committing and being found guilty of a crime against the law, a prisoner automatically gives up his 'rights'.

I too like to think I am a Christian. God made laws, the Ten Commandments are easy to follow.

READER'S VIEW

Laws are there to protect society, break them and you give up your rights. Talk to victims of crime about rights, these people are forgotten in our world today. Mrs Bernie McLeer, Bridgend

ABOVE:
This photograph was taken of a street party in Porthcawl. Are you in the picture? Do you know the date when the picture was taken and what the occasion was? If you can answer any of the above questions and have further information, please telephone Keith E. Morgan on 01656 788150.

'Benefits system far from a soft touch' – says local woman

REPORT by
TIM
CHAPMAN

TWO weeks ago, a young Barry man told how he had been barred from receiving job seeker's allowance after receiving a 'sanction' by the Job Centre.

The story generated a number of responses from readers, some of which were published in our letters page. The majority were unsympathetic.

However, one woman got in touch not to comment on that specific case, but to make a particular point on the tougher benefits system.

Mrs Jo Cooper from Rhosce believes that because some people have "played the system" other genuine claimants are now suffering the consequences.

Mrs Cooper, aged 40, had worked since she was a teenager despite suffering from a debilitating spinal problem.

"I suffered for many years with back problems and have sought medical advice over the years.

"In January 2009, my back gave out again. I had been doing cleaning work for a few years, as I thought physical work would help strengthen my back. Previously, I had done office work.

"When my back gave out again in January 2009, I went to the doctor again and this time they had no choice but to start doing tests on my back.

"I had no alternative but to give up my two jobs, as I could no longer physically work."

An x-ray and MRI scan revealed a degenerative disc disease.

Mrs Cooper said: "During this time, I contacted the benefits office to try and claim some type of benefit, due to the fact that physically, I could not work. I was eventually refused any sort of help."

Her back got worse and on August 20 last year she underwent major back surgery 'transforaminal lumbar interbody fusion'.

Mrs Cooper, who is in constant pain during her recovery period, explained: "I doubt whether I will be fit enough to go back to work until at least the end of the year and so until then, my husband and I will have to continue to struggle financially."

"I have been trying for more than two years to get help with some

type of benefit, as it has been a real struggle with only my husband working. On two occasions he has been out of work and we have managed on job seeker's allowance."

Like most couples Mrs Cooper and her husband Steve, an electrician, have a mortgage and when he lost his job for a second time in 2010 last October they were concerned as to whether they could make ends meet. Fortunately, Mr Cooper is back in employment.

Mrs Cooper believed that she should have been eligible for 'incapacity benefit' or 'employment support allowance', but three tribunals told her the medical condition was not enough to qualify for support through benefits.

"I feel so utterly let down by the system. They are supposed to be there to help the genuine people who, through no fault of their own, need support and in the two years I've been unable to work, I've had no help or support from anybody."

Mrs Cooper added that she believed the system was now so protective of benefits, genuine claimants were being disallowed.

Pencoed under-14s go try-crazy against Nantylfyllon team!

A good game of rugby was had against Nantylfyllon on Sunday, with a good team performance by the Pencoed pack.

The forwards were able to hold their own against a larger pack and they answered the coaches' call to put in the first tackles and make them count.

The first try was from Jack Briggs, which was converted by Chris Cooper.

Outside half Morgan Jones was able to run 100 metres to score the second try, while Jack Briggs got in on the game with another try, which was also converted by Cooper.

Scrum-half Cooper was also able to get two tries in the game, with one being converted by himself.

Jason Clatworthy scored the sixth try, which was then converted by Cooper and then his brother, Jonathan Clatworthy, got the seventh try.

There was brilliant tackling by all the boys, and the Nantylfyllon coach picked Jonathan

Clatworthy as man of the match.

Squad: James Merchant, Owain Clarke, Scott Ewing, Jo Watkins, Morgan Jefferies, Aled Barghery, Daniel

Maiden, Jack Briggs, Chris Cooper, Morgan Jones, Ellis Grittiths, Liam Bowen, Jason Clatworthy, Jamie Dyer and Johnathan Clatworthy.

JM

STEVE MAKES MARATHON EFFORT FOR CHARITY

LLANBLETHIAN resident, Steve Powell, is training hard for the London Marathon which is being held on April 17.

Having already completed marathons in Cardiff, Dublin and London, Steve is looking to complete the 26 miles in just over four hours.

He is running for the Marie Curie Cancer Care unit in Penarth, and Vale residents wanting to sponsor him can do so through his web site, where donations can be made on line.

The address is www.just-giving.com/stephen-powell or sponsorship forms can be obtained direct from Steve on 01446 771683.



MIKE WILCOCK

The Police hold on for much-needed victory



Jason Davies on another attack. ALL PHOTOS BY GARETH DAVIES.

AFTER two defeats, the Police welcomed fourth-placed Hirwaun to Waterton Cross.

The Police were looking for a double victory, however, Hirwaun seemed confident and were looking for a bonus point win.

The Police piled the pressure on early and the half-back partnership of Matthew Pound and Josh Miles controlled the game well and put centres Ryan Miles and Craig Davies into space.

The Police looked to get the first score, pushing the visitors back into their 22. However, good defence kept them out.

Quick-thinking from centre Davies saw him slot over a lovely drop goal to open the scoring for the Police.

The visitors opened the scoring with a well taken try, but ill-discipline saw centre Ryan Miles slot over a 40-metre penalty to put the Police back in front.

This lead was short-lived when the visitors took the lead with another well taken try and a penalty.

The Police front row of Vernon Dladla, Cory Evans and Rob Evan did really well against the bigger front row, and the back row of Calum Rogers, Chris Price and Jason Davies were solid in defence and quick to the breakdowns.

The Police had another

SOUTH WALES POLICE HIRWAUN

14
13



Craig Davies.

er penalty just inside the visitors' half which Ryan Miles slotted over to bring the Police within four points of the visitors. The Police now pushed for the points and a well-worked move saw the ball going through several pairs of hands and phases of play to finally see Josh Thomas pop the ball to Joshua Miles to sneak in right on the touchline to grab the try. Miles hit the upright with the conversion.

Hirwaun came straight back at the Police and looked to have stolen the win, but a brilliant scrum against the head from the Police saw them clear the line and hold on for the victory.

Captain Gerald

BS

Tondu under-14s' win boosts their confidence

TONDU were soon on the scoreboard, as a penetrative run by Sam Matthews resulted in quick possession for Geraint Gillet to snipe in from five metres, with the try converted by Rhyddian Jenkins.

Tondu further extended their lead when Lewis Austin showed speed and aggression to break the defensive line to run in from 10 metres.

Ben Jones scored next, running in a solo effort from deep inside his own half to flowing down under the uprights, converted by Rhyddian Jenkins.

TONDU under-14s MAESTEG WELSH

52
0

A flowing move down the wing involving Ieuan Evans and Osian Flaherty resulted in another try for Lewis Austin, who powered his way into the corner; the try was converted by Ben Jones.

Following several phases, Osian Flaherty was able to cross at the corner and Rhyddian Jenkins converted.

Tondu's next try was scored by Cole Lewis, who was on the end of a flowing backs move to cross near the corner, again converted by Ben Jones.

Tondu continued to exert pressure and Osian Flaherty scored next, receiving the ball from Rhyddian Jenkins to touch down at the corner; Jenkins converted.

Tondu's last try was scored by Carwyn Dent, who ran in from 50 metres, and this was converted by Ben Jones.

Following Tondu's recent run of form, this was a confidence-boosting display. The boys played a great brand running rugby and offloading in the tackle, which played dividends.

EJ

Bridgend Athletic under-10s enjoy rugby tour in Devon

BRIDGEND Athletic under-10s toured north Devon with Saturday and Sunday fixtures.

Game 1
THE Ath made a long trip south to play against Crediton RFC. Dan O'Sullivan went over for the opening try, and Connor Fabian went over to take the score to 10-0.

Teo Fillis score to make it 15-0. The Ath kept up the pressure on the hosts and Dan O'Sullivan weaved his way over to make it 20-0.

Dan O'Sullivan scored his third and made the half-time score 25-0 to the Ath.

Thomas Anthony scored within a few seconds of the second-half kick-off to make it 30-0. Jack Obbard dived over for the next try to make it 35-0 and Thomas Anthony made a great break to go over, extending the lead to 40-0.

Kasari Mehta was the next to drive over and score to make it 45-0 to the Ath.

Once again, great handling allowed Tomas Reed to find space to score and make it 50-0. The final try of the game was scored by Kasari Mehta to make it Bridgend Ath As 55, Crediton As 0.

Game 2
THE Ath Bs then took on Crediton Bs. Kasari Mehta went over for the first try to make it 5-0. Louis King did well to drive over for the second try of the game to make it 10-0 to the Ath.

Louis King broke just before half-time to make it 15-0. The Ath kept up the pressure in the second half and Brandyn Fookes crashed over to score, making it 20-0.

Connor Fabian made it 25-0 and Teo Fillis made a great break to extend the Ath lead to 30-0. The Ath forwards worked well for the final try, allowing Teo Fillis to break away and score his second, making it 30-0 to the Ath.

Crediton managed a consolation try to make the final score: Bridgend Ath Bs 35, Crediton Bs 5.

Sunday, Game 1
THE Ath made a shorter trip south to play against Barnstaple RFC and Tiverton RFC. The first game saw the Ath As play Barnstaple As.

Pressure from Barnstaple forwards on the Ath line saw the hosts force their way over for the opening try. The Ath came back well and Connor Fabian scored to make it 5-5 at the break.

Early pressure from the Ath saw Dan O'Sullivan go over in the corner to make it 10-5 to the Ath. Quick hands saw Jamie Marshall force his way over the line to make it 15-5.

Some great teamwork saw Thomas Reed find space to go over and score the final try of the match making it Bridgend Ath As 20, Barnstaple As 5.

Game 2
THIS game saw the Ath Bs play Barnstaple Bs.

Louis King went over within the first minute to make it 5-0. Josh Tidy went over to make it 10-0.

Once again, the Ath managed to get some good possession and Louis King made a great run to go over for his second of the game making it 15-0.

Kasari Mehta broke to score, making it 20-0. Lance Burn was next on the scoresheet. He made a great break and went over to extend the lead to 25-0.

The final try of the half came from Charles Creffield after he made a great break and outran the defence to score making it 30-0 at half-time.

The Ath came out firing again in the second half. An early break from Charles Creffield saw him go over to get his second of the game making it 35-0.

Louis King showed great strength to drive over and score his third of the game to make it 40-0.

Some good hands from the Ath allowed Lewis King space to go over for his fourth of the match, making it 45-0.

The Ath dominance continued with Josh Tidy gaining possession and weaving his way over to score making it 50-0.

The final try of the game came from Kasari Mehta after the team gained some quick early ball, giving him space to go over, making the final score: Bridgend Ath Bs 55, Barnstaple Bs 0.

Game 3
THE Ath came out of the blocks fast and Louis King crashed over for the opening try to make it 5-0 to the Ath.

The Ath forwards drove really well and Dafydd Beech dived over to extend the Ath lead to 10-0.

From the re-start, Tiverton broke well to score making it 10-5 to the Ath. The Ath stepped things up and from a good scrum the backs showed some great hands, getting the ball out to Lance Burn who went over to make it 15-5 to the Ath.

The Ath were attacking well and Ffion Revell picked up a loose ball and drove over the line to score, making it 20-5 to the Ath.

The final try of the

half went to Charles Creffield, who was set free by some good slick passing from the team, allowing him space to score and make it 25-5 at half-time.

Tiverton came out well in the second half but the Ath were on form and it wasn't long before a good ball out to Lance Burn saw him go over and score to make it 30-5.

Some good Ath possession saw Ffion Revell crash over to extend the Ath lead to 35-5. Some more great team work saw Louis King gain possession and he managed to force his way through the defence to score and make it 40-5 to the Ath.

Louis King completed his hat trick with another great break to go over the line and score the final try of the match and make it Bridgend Ath Bs, 45 Tiverton As 5.

Game 4
THE final match of the day saw a second game between the Ath As and Barnstaple As.

Jack Obbard drove over to score the opening try and make it 5-0 to the Ath. Barnstaple made some good breaks towards the end of the half but the Ath tackled very well. Half time score: Ath 5 Barnstaple 0.

Barnstaple had some good early possession and, despite some great Ath defending, they were able to level the score with a try to make it 5-5.

The Ath showed some good character and great teamwork saw Connor Fabian break free and score, giving the Ath a 10-5 lead.

Barnstaple once again came back strongly and put some good pressure on the Ath line. Barnstaple were able to drive over and score to level things at 10-10.

Both teams continued to play well and the Ath had a great spell of pressure on the Barnstaple line at the end, but were unable to break through and score.

Final score: Bridgend Ath As 10, Barnstaple As 10.

Ath squad: As: Jack Obbard, Thomas Anthony, Gwilym John, Jamie Marshall, Connor Fabian, Daniel O'Sullivan, Thomas Reed, Sam Veasey, Teo Fillis.

Bs: Taine Waite, Ffion Revell, Louis King, Lance Burn, Brandyn Fookes, Dafydd Beech, Charles Creffield, Josh Tidy, Kasari Mehta and Megan Webb (unable to play due to an injury).

PO

BRYNCETHIN MINI AND JUNIOR ROUND-UP

Under-8s grab two victories

Under-8s

Tonyrefail 2, Bryncethin 4
BRYNCETHIN travelled away to Tonyrefail and with both sides sporting good size squads, we were looking forward to two entertaining games.

After winning the toss, Bryncethin were soon on the attack and it wasn't long before they opened the scoring.

The Bryncethin defence held strong and by scoring another try before half time they held a 2-0 lead at the break.

With the second half underway, the home side started to come back into the game scoring their first try of the game.

Shortly after this, the strong Bryncethin defence were able to force a turnover to break away and score.

It was nip and tuck between both sides after this but Bryncethin held on to win 4-2.

Try scorers: Jake Whitefield (2), Jac Lerviss and Cory Ryall.

Man of the match: Jac Lerviss for his great tagging and well taken try.

Tonyrefail 2, Bryncethin 6
THE second game got underway with Bryncethin displaying good movement and passing.

Great teamwork allowed them to open the scoring with a well worked move, to touch down in the corner.

Again, with the defence holding firm, they were able to get through to half-time leading 3-0.

The second half got underway with Tonyrefail on the attack and a good run down the line led to them opening their account.

In response, it was the boys from Bryncethin that took control of the game from then on, and

with a good solid all round display they were able to round off a fine performance 6-2.

Try scorers: Rhys Cawley (3), Mike Gillette (2) and Miles Blakeman.

Man of the match: Mike Gillette for his superb team play and two well taken tries.

Squad: Morgan Hughes (captain game 1), Mike Gillette (captain game 2), Thomas Bassett, Shaun Batchelor, Miles Blakeman, Rhys Cawley, Ben Daniel, Ifan Hunnam, Jac Jervis, Will Laverick, Hollie Morgan, Cory Ryall, Morgan Thomas, Jake Whitefield, Jacob Rimron and Rhys Williams.

A large contingent will be travelling down to the Liberty Stadium on Saturday evening to watch the youngsters play their Ospreys tag tournament semi final during half time of the Ospreys - Blues game.

Go and enjoy yourselves - everyone at the club and especially the parents are extremely proud of all the boys and girls of the under-8s.

Under 10s

Tonyrefail 0, Bryncethin 26
ON a bright morning the Bryncethin youngsters were looking to play a more structured game than of late.

The outstanding trio of Scott Ryall, Rhys Davies and Aaron Thomas were using their power in the forward battles, and with the possession secured it was good to see the likes of Josh Napper, Daniel Osarigie and match captain Tomas Jones trying to create space on the outside.

The only score of the first half came following good work from Jack Thomas and Luke Board, allowing Morgan Stevens to cross for a try, converted by Jack.

The rest of the first half saw the

Tonyrefail youngsters battle hard to get a foothold, but all the Bryncethin boys were resolute in defence to keep them at bay.

The second half saw Bryncethin step up the intensity, and with a bit more luck Tobias Hunt could have scored three tries of his own.

As it was, Bryncethin scored three unanswered tries in the second half.

The first was a trademark excellent run from Keiran Dixon to evade the defence with his power and precision.

Great teamwork was to account for the next two tries. Firstly, space was created for another scorcher from Daniel Osarigie and then, following a sustained period of pressure that Tonyrefail did well to repel initially, an overlap was created to allow a first try for recent recruit Lewis Francis.

Conversions were added by Jack and Lewis to complete the scoring for the day.

Congratulations to Morgan Rimron on his first match in Bryncethin colours - may it be the first of many.

The players and coaches hope to see Finlay Mullens back in action shortly following his recent injury layoff.

Try scorers: Morgan Stevens, Keiran Dixon, Daniel Osarigie and Lewis Francis.

Man of the day: Tomas Jones - always looking for space and great defence.

Squad: Tomas Jones (captain), Daniel Osarigie, Keiran Dixon, Luke Board, Scott Ryall, Josh Napper, Jack Thomas, Morgan Stevens, Rhys Davies, Lewis Francis, Morgan Rimron, Aaron Thomas and Tobias Hunt.

RH

Seconds prove too Athletic for Beddau RFC

BRIDGEND Athletic Second XV maintained their excellent form in the National Welsh League for Second XV's of Premiership and Division 1 clubs.

They overcame Beddau 46-22, crossing for six tries.

They have now played 12, won nine, drawn one and lost two of their league fixtures, with an impressive 464 points for and 65 tries in the 12 fixtures.

A penalty opened the scoring for the Athletic but Beddau drew level with a penalty from Martin Jenkins.

Flanker Lee Sims crossed for the first Athletic try, converted by Cole.

Lock Griff Davies followed him over the whitewash and again Cole converted.

Rod Davies crossed for the third Athletic try, converted by Cole, and Beddau offended after the try was awarded, and the game restarted with an Athletic penalty on halfway, which Cole despatched with plenty of room

to spare.

This gave the Athletic a 24-3 half-time lead.

Beddau fought back after the interval with tries from David Lewis and David Barnes, and a Martin Jenkins conversion to reduce the deficit to 27-15.

This spurred on the Athletic and centre Nick Hinton crossed for his ninth try of the season, converted by Cole.

Beddau responded with an Alan Jones try, converted by Jenkins, but late Athletic tries from Lloyd Pemberton and Sam Treharne, allied to a fifth Cole conversion, completed the scoring.

Half back Stuart Kenny and Cole were the pick of the Athletic backs, with lock Griff Davies and prop Nathan Holman the best forwards in an excellent all-round team performance.

This Saturday, the Second XV visit Bedwas.

AB

PHOENIX SURVIVE LATE SCARE

Wauarwydd Women	10
Pencoed Phoenix	15

PENCOED PHOENIX were deserved winners in this National League Division 1 west match at Wauarwydd.

Phoenix were on top for most of the first half, and looked to have taken the lead when wing Jo Poupon cut inside several defenders to cross, only to be called back for an adjudged forward pass.

Phoenix were not to be denied however, and good handling by the backs released full back Sarah Hughes on an outside arc to squeeze in at the corner flag.

Wauarwydd came back and only good tackles deep in their own 22 by Marina Newth and Amy Stevens kept the home side out.

The Phoenix front row of Leanne Casley, Lowri Reeves and Michele Halse were providing a good platform, and putting Wauarwydd on the back foot on their own ball.

Just the one score separated the teams at the interval.

Rachel Anderson took the restart well, and a determined run back at the home side put Phoenix on the attack.

At this juncture, and not for the first time this season, the opposition chose uncontested scrums, this negating Phoenix superiority at the set scrummage.

Phoenix second row

Hannah Brunskill who was having a fine game at the lineout, won possession close to the Wauarwydd line and good driving play from the pack saw skipper Newth burst over.

Phoenix then extended their lead when, following a clearance kick from Hughes to halfway, wing Poupon pressured the home defence before hacking the loose ball on and winning the race for the touchdown.

Wauarwydd then counter attacked and their left wing was sent clear, before a tremendous covering tackle from Jade Mullen prevented what appeared to be a certain score.

With a 15-0 lead and around twelve minutes left, Phoenix looked comfortable; however, a yellow card for a technical offence brought Wauarwydd back into the match.

Wauarwydd were now winning more ball, and their dangerous midfield set up a try wide out, and a further score within two minutes made it a nervy final six minutes for Phoenix supporters.

Sarah Hughes was chosen by Wauarwydd as Phoenix player of the match.

TR



Matthew Tossell in action.

Kenfig Hill seconds cruise to victory

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 36)

Strong tackling, especially in midfield, was keeping the Mules in the game at this stage, but gradually the Mules forwards began to obtain better first phase ball, and their strong backline started to punch holes in the Skewen defence.

As a result, the Mules crossed over for two unconverted tries before the break from prop forward Lewis David and centre Shaun Burnell.

The Mules' dominance continued in both the forwards and backline in the second half, scoring five unanswered tries before the final whistle.

There were a number of stand-out performances from the Mules with flanker Gareth Downs showing excellent pace in hounding down the Skewen backline. Also, flanker Matthew Keylock played with huge strength and commitment in both defence and attack and it sometimes took three or four Skewen players to bring him to ground.

Jamie Meers also had one of his best games for the seconds at scrum-half with his aggressive running from the base of rucks and mauls.

It was also good to see the return of centre Alex Pearce to the fold, who was unfortunate not to score himself after an elusive run through the Skewen defence resulted in him being held up over the line.



Man of the match Jon Thomas makes ground.

Pictures by PETER GILLING

Throughout the match, both the Mules and Skewen adopted a 'roll on, roll off' approach to substitutions, which meant that all senior and youth team players from both teams who turned up had a good run out.

Also the teams were grateful for a firm but sympathetic performance from referee Carl Vincent.

Coaches' man of the match - Owen Davies.

Scorers Kenfig Hill: Lewis David, try; Shaun Burnell, try; Scott Hancock, try; Craig Knight, try, one conversion; Mark Fitzgerald, try; Dai Dent, try; Matthew Keylock, try.

Kenfig Hill 2nd XV 26 Baglan 1st XV 42

A SCRATCH Mules

second string put up a battling performance against a good Baglan XV at Croft Goch.

Since winning the district league, the seconds' commitment has dropped off but all the Mules who turned up worked their socks off for 80 minutes to push Baglan all the way in this pulsating game.

Baglan raced into an early 14-point lead with two well-taken converted tries. The Mules then took the game to Baglan and two tries followed from centre Mark Fitzgerald and youth team hooker Chris Leyshon, which was converted by fly-half Lloyd Giles.

The powerful Baglan backline continued to cause problems for the Mules defence and they ran in a further four converted tries.

The seconds never let their heads drop and they scored two more tries, the pick of which was a fine individual effort from flanker/centre Jamie John, who cut an excellent angle through the Baglan defence and side-stepped the full-back to score under the posts.

The final score in this thoroughly entertaining friendly was Mules 26 Baglan 42.

The pick of the Baglan players was full-back Dan Blethyn, who converted all six tries, one of which he scored himself.

The Mules had a number of standout performance with the pick of the bunch being hooker Chris Leyshon, whose all round play in the tight and loose earned him the coaches' man of the match award.

GOS

PYLE AND KENFIG GOLF CLUB

Holes-in-one - two on consecutive days!

IT looks innocuous from the tee; it is a fairly generous green; it is not a long hole and the slightly elevated tee foreshortens the distance.

However, the defence of the sixth green at P&K is the surrounding bunkers and the slopes that can cause an apparently well-struck ball to run off and drop into the receptive sand. Balls just off the green often have to be delicately pitched over one of these bunkers. The favoured chip and run is not an option - this is the scene for our story.

It is a very rare occurrence for a golfer to have a hole-in-one. That is one reason such an event is celebrated in the bar afterwards when the golfer in question traditionally buys everyone a



Geraint Evans.

drink. Costly but worth it most would agree. Lucky or skilful, or both, the first player on this occasion was Geraint Evans, a former captain at Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club.

Apparently, this is Geraint's first and, with his uncanny accuracy, probably not his last, and the photograph shows him grinning like the cat that got the cream.

Geraint obviously has an influence for the good

because as he was passing the same hole the next day, he witnessed Steve Rock strike his tee shot past the hole, only for it to spin back and run into the hole!

Societies are very welcome by prior arrangement. To Contact Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club, please telephone 01656 783093/771613 or visit www.pandkgolfclub.co.uk

JM

Big win for Persil Boys



PERSIL Boys cleaned up 5-0 against The Pie Boys in the Bridgend six-a-side Sunday Premier League as Glenn Davies led them home against the strugglers, while Ryan King crowned things in division one as Misfits beat early strugglers

Blackjack 3-0.

LFFC got off the mark for the season in the Bridgend Wednesday six-a-side league as they beat Cwm Ogwr Wasps 4-2, but Nicky Jones was at his best as The Invincibles opened up a gap on the chasing pack, winning 4-1.

Anyone who wants to join the five-a-side football leagues in south Wales can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net.

PENCOED YOUTH HAVE OFF DAY

THE PENCOED camp will be disappointed with this defeat, a game which could have been won.

Pencoed looked strong at the early scrummages, however it was the visitors who were first to threaten, driving over but held up by the Pencoed defence.

Schoolboy international Rhys Thomas, starting at 10 for Pencoed, eased pressure for his side with two fine 50 metre clearances.

The misfiring Pencoed lineout was then to cost them dear, losing their own throw with the visi-

Pencoed Youth	10
Aberavon Quins Youth	19

tors centre capitalising with a chip and chase to score at the posts.

Thomas then got a score for Pencoed following good combined play.

The visitors then increased their lead, attacking down the right and a hesitant home defence conceded the score.

Dynamic Pencoed No 8 Rhys Bargery then picked a great angle to score from 22 metres.

Pencoed were now well on top, and a mazy run from Thomas almost

brought a score.

With Pencoed on the attack, ironically it was home wing Lewis Walters, guesting for Aberavon Quins, who countered from 70 metres, showing good pace to put the match beyond his clubs reach.

Pencoed finished strongly creating several chances, but unfortunately it was not to be their day.

For Pencoed, Rhys Bargery and Rhys Thomas gave fine displays.

TR



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Bridgend and Cowbridge

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To develop new business sales in the commercial sector and service existing commercial clients.

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Salary £14,500 to £16,500
You will be an active team player in a busy office environment, servicing the day-to-day needs of existing insurance clients.

To apply, please e-mail your CV to andrew_morris@nfumutual.co.uk or call 01656 762706 for more information.
Closing date 8th April, 2011.

Please note, you'll be employed by an agent of NFU Mutual and not by NFU Mutual directly.



Happy Birthday
DON JOHN
on 2nd April, 2011
From all your friends
and colleagues at
The GEM

TERRY HALLETT

Happy 70th Birthday
31st March, 2011

To the greatest Dad
and Grandad ever!
All our love, Emma,
Martin, David, Matthew and
all your grandchildren
XXX



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Family Notices

TWOMEY John

Peacefully at Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor
on March 22nd.

John, aged 56 years, formerly of Jenner Street,
Barry, dearly beloved son of the late Jim and
Mary Twomey, much loved brother of Pat, Moira,
Norma, Anne and the late Bill and Terry,
brother-in-law of Joan, David and Mike,
loving uncle to all his nieces and nephews.

Resting at A. G. Adams & Son, Tynnewydd
Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his
requiem Mass at St Helen's RC Church, Barry on
Tuesday, April 5th at 10am, followed by crema-
tion at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only but donations in lieu to
Mencap, Barry

EVANS Arthur Henry

Peacefully on March 23rd at Princess of Wales
Hospital Bridgend.

Arthur (Big Arthur, retired Driver Aberthaw Cement)
of Gileston. Devoted husband of Hilary, dearly loved
father of Robert, dear father-in-law of Ceri, much
loved grandfather and great grandfather (Bapi) of
Linos-Wyn, Lloyd and partner Claire, and Gethin.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of
W. James & Sons Fommon. Funeral Thursday,
March 31st, Service 2.15pm. at Llysowrney Church
followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium,
Bridgend at 3.45pm.

No Flowers by request. Donation if desired to
Velindre Hospital, c/o J. W. James, 11 Fommon Road,
Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

DAVIES Phyllis (Phyl)

Peacefully on March 22nd at Princess of Wales
Hospital, Bridgend, after a short illness.

Much loved wife of the late Canon Bill Davies
and devoted mother of Anne, Peter and Andrew
and loving grandma to all her grandchildren and
great grandchildren. Will be sadly missed by all
her family and friends.

Funeral service at 1.15pm on
Thursday March 31 at St John's Church,
Llanblethian, followed by cremation at
Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.15pm.

Family flowers only please, but donations to
Ty Hafan Children's Hospice, Head Office,
St Hilary Court, Copthorne Way,
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GEM Family Notices

Public Notices

VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS)
ACT 1982 AS AMENDED BY
SECTION 27 OF THE POLICING
AND CRIME ACT 2009



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
DEDDO LLYWODRAETH LEOL
(DARPARIAETHAU AMRYWIOL)
1982 FEL Y DIWYGIWYD GAN
ADRAN 27 O DDEDDO PLISMONA
A THROSEDD 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 28th February
2011 Vale of Glamorgan Council (the Council) passed
a resolution that the provisions of Schedule 3 of the
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
(The Act) as amended by Section 27 of The Policing
and Crime Act 2009 shall apply to the Vale of Glamorgan
Council with effect from 1st June 2011.

The effect of this resolution is that the Vale of Glamorgan
Council will be able to regulate sex establishments.
Any person wishing to operate a sex establishment as
defined by Schedule 3 requires a sex establishment
licence, unless the requirement for a licence has been
waived by the Council.

Local people will have a greater say over the regulation
of these premises.

Sex establishments are sexual entertainment venues,
sex cinemas or sex shops.

A sexual entertainment venue means any premises at
which relevant entertainment is provided before a live
audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the
entertainer. Relevant entertainment may include lap dancing,
strip shows and table dancing or other similar forms of
entertainment as decided on a case by case basis.

Adoption will also ensure applications for sex
establishments are considered and activities are
appropriately controlled under the Vale of Glamorgan
Council's Licensing regime.

Further information is available at:
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or by contacting
the Licensing Section on 01446 709105
or email Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

HYSBYSIR TRWY HYN fod Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn
gallu rheoli sefydliadau rhyw. Bydd rhaid i unrhyw un
sydd am redeg sefydliad rhyw fel y diffinir yn Aodlen
3, gael trwydded, oni bai bod y Cyngor wedi hepgor yr
argen all hysgwr.

Mae hyn yn golygu y bydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg yn
gallu rheoli sefydliadau rhyw. Bydd rhaid i unrhyw un
sydd am redeg sefydliad rhyw fel y diffinir yn Aodlen
3, gael trwydded, oni bai bod y Cyngor wedi hepgor yr
argen all hysgwr.

Bydd gan bobl leol fwy o lais o ran rheoleddio sefydliadau
o'r fath.

Ysbyr sefydliadau rhyw yw lleoliadau adoniant rhyw,
siambrâu rhyw neu siopau rhyw.

Mae lleoliad adoniant rhyw yn golygu unrhyw le sy'n
cynnw adoniant perfformio perfformio cynulleidfia ffw ar
budd atannol y trwydded neu'r sawl sy'n ddiannu. Gall
adoniant perfformio gynnwys dawnsio glyn, siocau
strips a dawnsio burrd neu fathau tebyg drall o
adoniant a benderlyniar leol achos.

Bydd mabwysiadu'r darpariaethau hyn hefyd yn golygu
bod censiadau ar gyfer sefydliadau rhyw yn cael eu
hymlwyn, a bod gweithgareddau'n cael eu rheoli'n briodol
dan reolaethau trwyddedau Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael yn
www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk neu trwy ffonio'r
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neu e-bostio Licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG GORCHYMYN CYNLLUNIO GWLAD A THREF (TREFN DATBLYGIAD CYFFREDINOL) 1995

NOTICE is hereby given that application has been made to the Council for
planning permission for the undermentioned developments:

HYSBYSIR trwy hyn i geisiadau gael eu gwneud i'r Cyngor am ganiatâd
cynllunio ar gyfer y datblygiadau canlynol:

Listed Building Consent Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00221/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Replace two windows and backdoor
Location/Lleoliad:	3, Tower Hill Avenue, Penarth
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2011/00241/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig:	Repointing and repair to stonework external elevations
Location/Lleoliad:	Llansanor Court, Llansanor
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade I

Full details (including plans) may be inspected during normal working hours for
a period of 21 days in the offices of the Head of Planning and Transportation at
the address given below, or via the Council's Online Applications Register at
vog.planning-register.co.uk

Mae'r holl fanylion (gan gynnwys y cynlluniau) i'w gweld yn swyddfeydd
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y cyfeiriad ar waelod y
dudalen) yn ystod oriau arferol swyddfa, am gyfnod o 21 o ddiwrnodau.
Cewch eu gweld hefyd ar Gofrestr Ceisiadau Ar-lein y cyngor drwy fynd i
vog.planning-register.co.uk.

Dated: 31 March, 2011
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 31 Mawrth, 2011
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri
CF63 4RT

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with distinctive
headphones.
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MISSING
Tortoiseshell Cat
since
21st March 2011.
Wenloe Terrace area
of Barry.
Tel. 01446 620607
or 07951 059320

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

COWBRIDGE (ANCIENT BOROUGH)
WITH LLANBLETHIAN TOWN COUNCIL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following Vacancy
exists on the above named Council

LLANBLETHIAN WEST WARD

The Council, in accordance with Section 21(1)(a)
Representation of the People Act 1985,
shall fill this vacancy by way of co-option.

Any* qualifying Local Government elector who
is interested in the possibility of being co-opted
onto the Town Council should inform the
undersigned in writing no later than

1.00 pm Friday 8th April 2011

*Please note that it is not a requirement to reside within the Ward.

Dated this 24th March 2011.

Mr Andrew Davies, Town Clerk
Cowbridge (Ancient Borough)
with Llanblethian Town Council
Town Hall, 21 High Street, Cowbridge CF71 7AD

Motors For Sale

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Brand new MOT, fsh,
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mgt, immaculate.
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Special chair
for pressure sores
All items brand new

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(12/13)

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music books. Good
condition - £50.

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(12/13)

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Low bed with pull
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(12/13)

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condition - £85

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(12/13)

Good quality
garden table
and 4 folding
chairs

£100

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(12/13)

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'Stressless' reclining 2
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quality leather, as new -
£350, cost £2200
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Never been used
Cost owner £1,200
Accept **£420**
Can deliver

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ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

RIDING honours at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Ystradowen last Saturday went to Tom David of Llanharan, who rode his first ever treble.

After finishing second on the long odds-on favourite *Green Mining* in the members' race, David went on to win on *Billybo* (aged maiden), *Little Shilling* (mixed open) and *Ask The Thatcher* (restricted).

Billybo, an eight-year-old bay gelding, owned by Aberthin's Tim Vaughan and trained by his wife Abbi, was in a handy position throughout and went clear three fences from home to win by five lengths from *WheresThePost*, ridden by Jodie Hughes.

Little Shilling, who, back in 2008, won six hurdle races on the trot, jumped the last fence alongside the favourite *Sir Monty*, partnered by Welsh champion rider John Mathias, and in an exciting finish got home by three quarters of a length from the early pacemaker *Merdeka* a further 20 lengths back in third spot.

Little Shilling is owned by Barry's Andrew Lowrie and has the Welsh Point-To-Point 'Grand National' at the Pentrych at Bonvilston on April 23 as his next target.

Ask The Thatcher, a seven-year-old bay gelding, owned and trained by Bridgend's David Brace, looked a beaten horse when *Tenspinsinhiits*, ridden by Isabel Tompsett, took over the running with three fences to jump. However, despite being half-a-length or so down at the last fence, *Ask The Thatcher* fought back bravely on the run to the winning post to win by half-a-length.

There was a presentation during the afternoon to David's grandmother, Mrs Olive Thomas, of Flemingston, who, up until this year, has been the entries secretary for more years than she cares to remember and who has

now graciously agreed to become the hunt's point-to-point treasurer.

Three of the nine entries faced the starter for the members' race and this resulted in a win for Helen Porter's French-bred *Obelix De Longchamps* who, under Nathan Deakin, jumped to the front at the second last fence to score by 25 lengths from Brett Lloyd's *Green Mining*, with Lucy Brice's *Cool Cliche* a further 12 lengths away.

The longest priced winner of the day was 20-1 chance *The Duckster* who, confidently ridden by Paul Tolman, had two-and-a-half lengths to spare over *Lady Trig* in the young horse maiden race.

The favourite, *Hidden Bay*, ridden by Tolman's partner Jodie Hughes, finished sixth and last of the 13 runners.

Not much bigger than a pony, *The Duckster*, a seven-year-old bay gelding, was running for the first time this season and is trained by his rider.

The club members' race went to *Attorney General*, owned and trained by Pembrokeshire National Hunt trainer Dai Rees.

A 12-year-old bay gelding by *Saddler's Wells*, and a former inmate of Sir Mark Prescott's yard, *Attorney General*, ridden by John Mathias, drew away in the closing stages to win by 20 lengths from *Rich Nomad* partnered by Ben Poste.

Honorary secretary Peter Thomas was delighted with the tremendous crowd that turned up to witness some exciting racing and the Ystrad & Taf Fechan Hunt, which will be holding their annual races over the course on April 16, will be hoping that their meeting will attract just as big a crowd.

Next Saturday, the Monmouthshire Hunt Point-To-Point will be held at Llanvapley near Abergavenny. First race at 2pm.

You can email your views/news to Brian Lee at leebrian@btinternet.com or phone him on 02920 736438.



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COWBRIDGE SCHOOL'S ATHLETES EXCEL IN THE SPORTS HALL FINALS

THE Welsh Schools Sports Hall Athletics finals were held at the Cwmbran Stadium where 21 athletes were selected to represent the City of Cardiff and Vale Schools.

Boys under-15

IN this all rounder competition, athletes choose a sprint, a jump and a choice of speed bounce or shot putt.

Year-10 pupil Rafi Shrizard, who joined us back in September from Afghanistan, thoroughly enjoyed his day with second place in the two lap non-scoring event and fifth in the shot putt with 10.62m.

Year-9 pupil George Griffiths helped the team of six to win the overall team award, which will take them to the British finals in Birmingham on April 3. George finished sixth in the two-lap race, fifth in the shot putt and got another Welsh title in the standing triple jump with 8.18m.

That performance gave him an overall points total of 131 to finish in bronze medal position in the all rounder competition behind two boys from north east Wales.

Girls under-15

SARAH Lewis finished 16th in the two-lap race, 12th in the speed bounce (with 71) and 4th in the vertical jump (with 48cm).

Caitlin Allin finished 8th in the two-lap race, 4th in the speed bounce (with 75), and 13th in the vertical jump (with 43cm).

Izzy Eddy-Williams was 11th in the 4-lap race, 4th in the speed bounce (with 75) and 4th in the standing long jump (with 2.21m).

In the all-round points total, Izzy finished 8th out of 46 competitors. All three girls helped their county team to silver medal position in the team event.

Girls under-13

THE county team finished 4th overall with the help of the following girls:

Ela Emyr – 12th in 4-lap race (1m 03.9); 11th in vertical jump (39cm); 4th in 4x2 lap race.

Brooke Langton-Cryer – 6th in shot (7.35m); 4th in 4x1 lap race; 4th in obstacle race.

Ellie Eddy-Williams – 10th in 4-lap race (1m 02.01); 10th in standing long jump (1.87m); 4th in 4x1 lap race.

Sally Gambling – 5th 2-lap final; 4th in 2-lap

race.

Sian Davies – 4th in 4x2 lap; 8th in standing triple jump (4.80m).

Sashimi Jayasinghe – 8th in high jump (1.10m); 4th in 4x2 lap.

Maya Bell – 8th in 6-lap (1m 42.3); 6th in 8 lap; silver medal (2nd) in standing long jump (2.15m).

Boys under-13

Scott Thomas – gold medal (1st) in 2-lap non-scoring.

Harrison Stevens – 4th in vertical jump (49cm); bronze medal (3rd) in 4x1 lap relay.

Nathan Robson – 5th in shot (9.16m); bronze medal (3rd) in 4x1 lap relay; bronze medal (3rd) in obstacle race.

Daniel Oddy – 7th in shot (7.16m); bronze medal (3rd) in 4x1 lap relay; bronze medal (3rd) in obstacle race.

Ellis Rosser – bronze medal (3rd) in 6 lap race (1m30.5); 7th in vertical jump (46cm); gold medal (1st) in 8-lap parlour.

Rian Thomas – silver medal (2nd) in 6 lap race (1m29.2); bronze medal (3rd) in standing long jump (2.17m); gold medal (1st) in 8 lap parlour.

Kristian Jones – gold medal (1st) in 4-lap (53.8sec); 4th in speed bounce (66); gold medal (1st) in 4x2 lap relay.

Tom Trotman – gold medal (1st) in 2-lap (24.7sec); gold medal (1st) in high jump 91.55m; gold medal (1st) in 4x2 lap relay.

What a fantastic set of results from the seven boys out of 12 in the county team from Cowbridge Comprehensive School. All this effort with the other five members takes them to the British Finals on April 3 as Welsh champions.

GW

RUGBY

THE school senior rugby squad will travel to Llandeilo to face Tregib Comprehensive in the semi-final of the Nation Vase Competition.

Captain Ben Smith will have the benefit of a full strength squad to select from for the first time all season. The game will be played at Llandeilo RFC.

In the league, there was another disappointing performance from the senior squad who lost 33-3 against Bro Morgannwg. After a very pleasing start to the game, the school team started to lose focus

and a number of players missed simple first tackles.

Once again, the school paid the price of not having any grass to train on over the past two years. However, the squad will be very disappointed with the second half performance in particular.

INDOOR CRICKET

COWBRIDGE year-7 and 8 cricket team took part in the annual indoor girl's county cricket tournament.

Cathedral School, Howells and Radyr Schools also took part. The Cowbridge team have been practising with coach Bethan Moorcraft on a Friday with the new indoor cricket nets. In the morning session, a round robin competition took place.

Cowbridge faced Cathedral School first. After losing the toss, Cowbridge batted first. Cathedral took three wickets in the first over (Josie Palmer, Emily Davies and Maddie Breed). However, wickets taken slowed down and Rosa Harman kept calm and scored some well-earned runs for the team, as did Megan McNamee and Laurie Thomas.

Cowbridge finished on 42 runs after 10 overs.

Cathedral then batted but Cowbridge gave away too many wides and Cathedral won after five overs. However, Laurie Thomas took a hat trick in a row in the last over! Cathedral scored 64, so won the match by 22 runs.

In the second game, Howells batted first and scored 51, and again Laurie Thomas took three wickets. The fielding was very tight by Cowbridge! When Cowbridge batted, they scored 70 to win by 18 runs.

In the final round of the round robin, Cowbridge played Radyr, who batted first and scored 88. Again, bowlers Laurie Thomas, Josie Palmer, Maddie Breed and Emily Davies did well and took seven wickets between them.

Cowbridge then went into bat. It was very close throughout and it all came down to the last over and after two wides and four runs, Cowbridge took the win by one run!

In the other matches, Cathedral won all three games, Radyr lost against Cathedral and Cowbridge and Howells lost all three matches.

After lunch, Cathedral played Howells and won and Cowbridge played Radyr again.

Radyr had lost their heads from the first match and scored 45 after 10 overs. Cowbridge won after five overs, scoring 47, and only Rosa Hartman, Laurie Thomas, Megan McNamee and Josie Palmer got to bat.

In the overall final, Cowbridge faced Cathedral again. Cathedral batted first and made 93. Unfortunately, Cowbridge could only make 48. All of the team played well in their first tournament.

Team: Olivia Wood, Josie Palmer, Emily Davies, Maddie Breed, Hetty Breed, Rosa Hartman, Mille Green, Megan McNamee, Hannah Lee and captain Laurie Thomas.

Well done and a big thank you to Bethan Moorcraft for her coaching.

The Cowbridge year-9 and 10 girls cricket team played in the Cardiff and Vale county indoor cricket tournament at Talybont.

Cathedral, Howells and Michaelston Community College were Cowbridge's competitors.

Cowbridge faced Michaelston first and they scored 29 from 10 overs. Laurie Thomas (year-8), Mairi Boxall, Caitlin Allin and Niamh Gallagher all bowled and there was some great wicketkeeping from Liz Whitehouse.

Cowbridge batted and scored 98; Niamh scored 16 and Mairi had to retire after scoring 20.

In the second game, Howells batted first and scored an amazing 110. Once again, there was some great fielding by Cowbridge especially by Laurie Thomas, who took two wickets in the first over.

Cowbridge batted and it was level throughout with Niamh, Laurie and Caitlin all scoring 20 and having to retire by the ninth over. These players came back in after all the other girls were out and Cowbridge just eased ahead, winning by eight runs!

The third match was against the Cathedral School, who batted first and scored 136. Niamh Gallagher took a good catch and Kate Llewellyn fielded well for Mairi Boxall to get two quick wickets!

Cathedral's fielding and bowling was very tight and didn't give anything away. Cowbridge scored 67.

In the round robin competition, Cathedral came first, Cowbridge second, Howells third, and Michaelston fourth.

Cathedral then played Michaelston and won. Cowbridge had a rematch against Howells. Howells were out for revenge and Cowbridge, without their only regular cricket player, Laurie Thomas, struggled.

Howells scored 107 but did manage to lose all eight wickets with Josie Chivers excelling in the field. Cowbridge could only manage to score 81

this time, so Howells went through to the overall final playing Cathedral.

Well done to all the girls who took part.

Team: Liz Whitehouse, Mairi Boxall, Caitlin Allin, Angharad Davies, Eliza Smith, Hannah Woodward, Niamh Gallagher, Kate Llewellyn, Josie Chivers, Hannah Talor, Laurie Thomas.

HOCKEY

COWBRIDGE hosted the year-7 preliminary hockey tournament with Radyr and Howells as our competitors.

Cowbridge played Howells first, and after three minutes Howells found the back of the goal. There were no other goals during the match with great defence by Megan Duncombe, Isabel Smith and Sian Smith, and attacking by Gemma Viney, Seren Allin, Cerys Bradshaw and Ella Williams trying their hardest to score.

The game finished 1-0 to Howells. In the second game, Howells played Radyr and won this game 4-0.

Cowbridge played Radyr in the third game.

Radyr scored in the first minute of the game as Cowbridge had not switched on yet. Cerys Bradshaw scored to make it 1-1 before half-time.

In the second half, Cerys Bradshaw scored again but within seconds Radyr replied with a goal and quickly scored another, making it 3-2.

Gemma Viney, the player of the match, got a well deserved goal to make it 3-3 at the final whistle.

In the competition, Howells came first, Cowbridge second and Radyr third.

Team: GK Hetty Breed, Defence Sian Smith, Isobel Fisher, Isobel Smith, Martha Holder, Midfield Niamh Galton, Niamh Jenkins, Seren Allin, Megan Duncombe, Molly Price and attack of Ella Williams, Gemma Viney and Cerys Bradshaw.

BASKETBALL

COWBRIDGE year-9 played Stanwell, their last game before the final at WISP sports centre in Sophia Gardens.

The first 10 minutes set the pattern for the game, with Cowbridge dominating both boards and putting Stanwell under real pressure with their usual full court aggressive man-to-man defence. During this period, Stanwell only managed to score a couple of baskets, while Cowbridge scored freely. Stanwell never gave up, and with a partisan crowd behind them they gave their all, but the result was never in question with Cowbridge running out easy winners 42-17.

Tom Trotman scored the basket of the game, and possibly the season, catching the ball in mid air and shooting before he hit the ground, NBA style.

All the team played well but it was top scorer Harry Stubbington who was man of the match.

The team was particularly pleased, as this win was without regular high scorer George Griffiths, who was ill.

They all look forward now to the final and moving on to the Welsh Championships at Rhondda Fach LC on April 13.

On Tuesday, March 15, having won all their games in the Vale Championship, Cowbridge played Glyn Derw, who were the runners-up in the Cardiff Championship.

With Tom Trotman playing rugby for the year-9 team, they were a key player down.

There was no need to worry as they scored from the tip off and never looked back!

Cowbridge's superior passing and shooting soon built up a healthy lead and were able to run the bench. Their shooting and passing improved as the game went on and they scored some really slick baskets, with the ball sometimes not touching the ground from one end to another.

The final score was 62-10 to Cowbridge. It was difficult to pick out a man of the match as the bench was run extensively and key players were rested, but the honour was awarded to David Griffiths for top scoring with 14 points.

They now move on to the finals at WISP in Sophia Gardens. They play Cardiff High, who are also unbeaten.

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Cowbridge under-7s' round robin success

A FINE day saw Cowbridge make the short trip to Llantwit Major for a round robin against the hosts and two Pontypridd teams.

With the large Cowbridge squad evenly split between two teams, the Greens and the Whites, all the boys saw plenty of pitch time.

Game 1 was against the Pontypridd B team and the Cowbridge boys were quickly into their stride with full length scoring runs being the order of the day.

The Cowbridge defence was stronger than the Pontypridd one and the subsequent turnovers gave the boys a well deserved victory, final score 8-5.

Scorers: Tom Brennan (2), Finlay Ball, Finlay Brace, Ethan Francis, Archie Lloyd, Sam Payne, Ifor Rees.

Game 2 was against the hosts Llantwit Major and the results were very similar to the first match.

Final score 8-5 to Cowbridge, scorers Reuben Davies (3), Rhydian Williams (2), Robbie Brown, Evan Davies, Steffan Evans.

Game 3 was against the Pontypridd A team who had defeated the hosts in a closely fought encounter.

The Cowbridge boys once again were able to match their illustrious counterparts and won, the final score 7-5.

Scorers Reuben Davies (3), Rhydian Williams (3), Akka Guwy.

While it's lovely to see the Cowbridge team being able to run in tries from all over the pitch, the defence is still falling back and waiting for the opposition to run around them.

Special mention must be made for the sterling work put in by Tom Brennan, Robbie Brown, Iolo Davies, Reuben Davies and Akka Guwy, who

were to the vanguard of the defensive moves; what you do in training is not just for Wednesday nights!

Squad: Finlay Ball, Tom Brennan, Finlay Brace, Robbie Brown, Henri Cairns, Evan Davies, Iolo Davies, Reuben Davies, Steffan Evans, Ethan Francis, Akka Guwy, James Jones, Archie Lloyd, Sam Payne, Ifor Rees, Will Ryan, Finlay Sullivan, Luke Tredwell.

Under 12s

COWBRIDGE defeated local rivals Llantwit Major with a comfortable win away from home. Three tries from Dan Bunney (the second hat trick in consecutive games) and Harrison Stevens, plus one each from Duncan Ace and Cai Evans provided a confidence booster before their Blues Cup semi-final against Pontypridd next week.

Cai Evans also had an excellent all round kicking game, including six conversions.

The home side had no answer to the well controlled rucks and mauls of their opponents, with Ollie Rampling, Will Couzins and Josh Evans prominent throughout the game.

Whenever Llantwit threatened the Cowbridge line brave tackling from Tomos Evans-Williams, Henry Jones and Matthew Keating held them at bay.

Scrum half Osian John regularly provided quick ball to allow Seán Davies, Toff Patel and Charlie Pegrum to breach the Llantwit defence time and again.

The home side made a valiant effort to score near the end of the game but a try saving tackle from Charlie Martin prevented the visitors crossing the line for a final score of Cowbridge 52, Llantwit Major 0.

MTL

Cowbridge squash team win in peculiar set of circumstances!

NEWPORT E travelled to the Cowbridge Athletic Ground for a do-or-die relegation battle with the Cowbridge A Bar 44 squash, but may have come unstuck from what was a 3-2 win on the night for the Gwent team.

Team selection should reflect squash club players ability rankings, but the Newport line-up featured a player from the higher ranked Newport Ds at No 1.

League rules state that the infringing team lose all points gained from the illegal position down, hence reversing the result from 8-15 to 19-0 to Cowbridge, which virtually secures mid-table safety – even a narrow chance of a promotion slot!

For the record, the match took the following course.

Garfield Leask (No 3) was outplayed by the experienced Mike Logan and consequently dipped to a 0-3.

Simon Payne was again involved in another epic 5-setter – eventually coming through 9-6 in the fifth with a couple of tie-break games on

the journey.

At No 5, Niall Sloan looked out of sorts for the first two games before looking to have turned the corner in game three with a 9-2; but his young Newport opponent stepped on the gas to run out a 3-1 winner.

Number 1 Nick Guard had a virtual stroll in the park (9-0, 9-1, 9-4) against the Newport No 1 – clearly the product of split-strength teams from the Rodney Parade lads.

This meant the match was finely balanced at 2-2 with another marathon match taking place at No 2 – the hard-running of Jon Bisson paid dividends in the early stages with JB taking a 2-0 lead, but his 17-year-old opponent, George Evans, found the fight to match his youth to run out the eventual 3-2 winner.

The Cowbridge Bs Bar 44 were entertained by St Mellons E on every squash player's

favourite night out – 5pm on a Sunday!

Unfortunately, the Bs are back in the mire, only coming away with six points from a 1-4 defeat and now have the prospect of taking on league leaders Barry to attain enough points to stave off relegation.

Only Colin Baxter (No 4) could produce a winning performance, 3-1. Numbers 1 to 3, Paul Reynish, Chris Ranger and Richie Ford, managed a point each in their 1-3 results while Russ Watts drew a blank at No 5 – match result 6-17.

The Cowbridge Cs Shampian had a rest week, but need a big win against Cardiff University B in their final fixture and hope that Old Penarthians C go down badly at UHW A.

Club details available from Clive Prigg (01446 773729); club skipper russ.watts@btopen-world.com.

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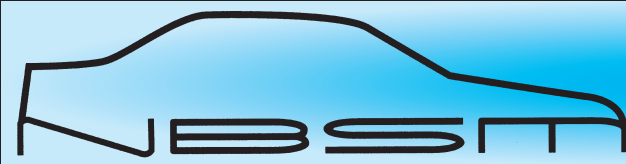
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- 08 58 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 HDi Desire 5-dr MPV. In oriental blue with black interior, ISOFIX anchorage point, air con, front electric windows, only 36,740 miles£7,995
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- 07 57 VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 16v Breeze 5-dr MPV. In Black sapphire with charcoal interior, reversing sensors, CD, air con, privacy glass, only 23,580 miles£6,495
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05	VAUXHALL Tigra 1.4 Sport. In black with silver trim, 50,000 mile convertible at	£5,995
03	MERCEDES C220Di Avant Garde SE Auto in black, 78,000 miles, diesel economy at	£5,995
99	MERCEDES SLK 230 Kompressor Auto in silver with black leather, 87,000 mile convertible	£5,995
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57	PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi Sport 5-dr in met red, 1 owner with a/c, cruise control, etc	£6,995
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56	TOYOTA Avensis T3S 2.0-4D 5-dr. In sea mist silver, 73,000 mile diesel hatch at	£6,495
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06	FORD Focus 2.0 TDCi Zetec Climate 3-dr in Colorado red, 83,000 miles, 2 owners	£4,995
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06	VAUXHALL Meriva 1.4 Life In silver, 40,000 miles with CD, A/C etc	REDUCED BY £500 TO £4,495
06	RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Expression in silver, low mileage example of this versatile model	£4,495
05	CITROEN C4 1.6 HDi SX 5-dr. In light met blue, 67,000 miles, diesel economy at	£4,495
06	CITROEN Picasso 2.0 Desire Auto. Blue, very desirable car, 38,867 miles	REDUCED BY £800 TO £3,995
06	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Verve 5-dr. In electric blue, 61,000 miles with a/c, cd, alloys	£3,995
54	FORD Fiesta 1.4 Flame 5-dr. In red, 63,000 miles with a/c, 2 owners	£3,995
04	FORD Fiesta 1.4 Silver 3-dr. 78,000 miles with full leather trim, alloys, c/d, a/c	£3,995
04	FORD Fusion 1.4 '2' in silver, 53,000 miles with a/c, CD, etc	£3,695
52	FORD Fiesta 1.6 Ghia 5-dr. In gun metal silver, 34,000 miles, 1 family from new	£3,695
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51	RENAULT Clio 1.2 Authentique 3-dr in met blue, 68,000 miles, ideal first car	£2,195

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blackhorse

NEW LAP RECORDS MADE BY YOUNG RACERS AT LLLANDOW KARTING CLUB

THE second round of Llandow Kart Club's 2011 championship was notable not only for the warm sunshine that graced the majority of race-day, but also for a glut of new lap records.

With an entry slightly up on February's opening round, no fewer than six classes saw their benchmark times rewritten during a remarkable day, with other drivers

either breaking or threatening the old mark to underline the pace of the Llandow circuit.

As has become customary, the Bambino class got things under way with five runners, including a couple of new faces in Marco Costanza and William Elswood.

While both newcomers gave good accounts of themselves, the fastest times again belonged to those with previous experience, as Max Fenlon, George Alp-Williams and Alex

Austin filled the top three positions. Fenlon also underlined his early-season form with the first new lap record of the day.

Honda Cadet again boasted the biggest field of the day, with 16 drivers taking to the track, but once more proved to be about Ryan Edwards and Brandon Patrick. The pair shared the heat wins between them, with Edwards emerging on top, before engaging in a tense battle throughout the 10-lap final.

Although Edwards made the most of pole-to-lead, he could not shake his pursuer, and Patrick made the most of a rare chance to slip through two laps from home and hold on for victory. Hugo Holmes, who twice finished in the top three in the heats, completed the podium ahead of Daniel and Ross Thomas.

The Comer Cadet class may have had only half the number of run-



Ross Chell and Scott Morris do battle at the head of the Junior TKM field in round two of Llandow Kart Club's 2011 championship.

ners, but still provided close competition as Isaac Channing and Lewis Griffiths battled over top spot. Griffiths edged the heats and then withstood concerted pressure from Channing throughout the final to cross the line just 0.09secs ahead of the flag.

In a race where positions remained static

despite the well-matched field, Jack Barber claimed third place, as he had in each of the heats.

After serving notice of his potential as he returned to action in February's season-opener, Daniel Jones dominated proceedings in Junior Honda. In the absence of Welsh and Celtic champion Lloyd Sealy, Jones might have been expected to take control against three novices, but the MS-mounted driver was only denied a clean sweep by a second heat DNF, and broke the lap record on several occasions as he romped away with the final. Monty Gorridge, who claimed heat two following Jones' mishap, claimed runners-up honours ahead of Danny Griffiths.

With insufficient numbers in either class to warrant separate grids, Junior TKM and Minimax were again combined in an eight-kart field. Having swept all four races in February, Ross Chell found Scott Morris in

determined mood this time around, and had to give best to his rival in the opening heats before coming good in the third. In the final, however, it took Chell just three laps to hit the front and, despite Morris remaining glued to his rear bumper and setting a new lap record in pursuit, he held on to claim victory by a tenth of a second. Ryan Jones took third place.

After the frustration of seeing his February chances ended on the dummy grid, Lewis Malin was another on a March mission in Minimax. With just Rob Ellis for opposition, he claimed the first two heats, and returned to top spot in the final, winning by a couple of seconds as he gave chase to the leading TKM runners.

Senior Honda numbers improved again for the second meeting of the season and, with Chris Lipscomb back in the mix, the anticipation of competition between no fewer than five class champions was mouth-watering.

As it turned out, however, no-one could challenge reigning number one Simon Evans, who not only swept all four races, but also blitzed Lipscomb's lap record, which had only been set at the end of last season. To make matters worse for the Silver Fox Racing driver, he also found himself missing the final due to damage sustained in heat three, leaving it to Gareth Lewis, Hugh Jones and Paul Saunders to lead the pursuit of Evans.

In the end, it was for-

mer heavyweight champ Jones, continuing his unexpectedly strong start to the campaign, who finished best of the rest, and ahead of Lewis, as Evans strengthened his championship position with a two-second victory.

Junior Rotax again proved to be the domain of Macaulay Austin who, despite dropping the opening heat to James Johnson, then remained unbeaten for the rest of the day. Although not running away with the final, the much-decorated racer held a comfortable two-second advantage at the flag, as Dean Clayton – who hadn't featured in the top three in the heats – and Matt Ryder completed the podium.

Johnson, who lost second and third positions on the same lap, finished fifth behind Jordan Hawkins.

After dominating on his Senior Max debut at Llandow, reigning Junior champion Josh Collings proved that his form was no fluke by winning three of the four races, and setting a new class lap record as he stroled to victory in the final for the second month running.

Behind him, Chris Davis and Craig Mooney, Collings' most consistent rivals in the heats, completed the podium after running second and third throughout the final, while Matthew Dowers had to make do with fourth, despite tailing the pair for all twelve laps.

Wayne Stone again found strong opposition in the Max 177 class

and, despite rewriting the lap record, was unable to overcome Simon Wheeler at any point.

RESULTS

BAMBINO – 1, Max Fenlon (Birel); 2, George Alp-Williams (CRG); 3, Alex Austin (Zip).

CADET HONDA – 1, Brandon Patrick (Project One); 2, Ryan Edwards (Project One); 3, Hugo Holmes (Zip).

CADET COMER – 1, Lewis Griffiths (Zip); 2, Isaac Channing (Zip); 3, Jack Barber (BRM).

JUNIOR HONDA – 1, Daniel Jones (MS); 2, Monty Gorridge (7Kart); 3, Danny Griffiths (MS).

JUNIOR TKM – 1, Ross Chell (Jade); 2, Scott Morris (Tonykart); 3, Ryan Jones (Intrepid).

MINI MAX – 1, Lewis Malin (Tonykart); 2, Rob Ellis (Tonykart).

SENIOR HONDA – 1, Simon Evans (7Kart); 2, Hugh Jones (MS); 3, Gareth Lewis (7Kart).

JUNIOR ROTAX – 1, Macaulay Austin (Exprit); 2, Dean Clayton (Alonso); 3, Matt Ryder (Kosmic).

SENIOR ROTAX – 1, Josh Collings (CRG); 2, Chris Davis (Storm); 3, Craig Mooney (CRG).

ROTAX 177 – 1, Simon Wheeler (CRG); 2, Wayne Stone (CRG).

Best Novice: Joe Pritchard (Honda Cadet); **Driver of the Day:** Simon Evans (Senior Honda).

REPORT: CRAIG LLEWELLYN

PHOTO: HARDY RODDE

Win a copy of horse racing book

THE Glamorgan GEM has teamed up with Blenheim Press Ltd, who are giving readers a chance to win a copy of Bob Butchers' horse-racing book 'Silks, Soaks and Certainties'.

Described by The GEM's racing correspondent Brian Lee as "one of the best horse-racing books I have read in years," this book takes a light-hearted look at the racing scene and will appeal to all who are racing 'buffs' and many who are not.

The tale of a family whose links with racing have spanned more than a century is packed with many wonderful evocative accounts of incidents and characters of yesteryear; some of the

activities would, to say the least, be frowned on today.

Bob Butchers was the original newsboy on the Daily Mirror, a post he filled with distinction for almost 39 years.

To have a chance of winning one of the two copies that are up for grabs, just answer the following question:

Last year's Grand National winner Don't Push It was ridden by:

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Good luck!

BRIAN LEE

Maizy Missile speeds home

MRS Mary Evans's nine-year-old bay mare Maizy Missile was a three lengths winner of the handicap hurdle at Newton Abbot.

Confidently ridden by Paul Moloney, home-bred Maizy Missile was made a 5-1 favourite and came home three lengths ahead of Mr Bachster.

Mrs Evans, a former point-to-point rider of note, hails from Llancarfan and farms in Pembrokeshire with her second husband Bill Evans.

Her son, Evan Williams, had an across the card double on Saturday.

At Bangor-on-Dee, his Chrysander won the opener under Aidan Conlan and at Stratford-on-Avon, his Penelope Pips, ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, won the bumper (National Hunt flat race) by a head from Dazzling Rita.

BRIAN LEE

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Lions keep warm!



ABOVE: The team are pictured with their new hoodies

Ladies' golf season is now underway

ONE of the rounds of the Mail on Sunday was played at Southerndown on March 20 – Southerndown (ladies) v Pyle and Kenfig.

Southerndown won. Congratulations to the team and good luck in the next round.

Also, one of the Daily Mail rounds was played

at Southerndown on March 17. Two ladies from St. Mary's Golf Club played Dawn Austin and Chris Evans – Dawn and Chris won 3 and 1. Congratulations to them and good luck in the next round.

The Coronation Foursomes was played on March 21 and the winners were Jean Broughton (captain) and Liz Dodd.

PARK LIONS under-13s would like to say a big thank you to Just 4 Let for buying hoodies to keep them warm.

Since it's been a cold few months training outside, these have been invaluable.

For more information on the club please contact Kim on 01446 738486.



GEM sport

SPEED'S NEW ERA GETS A REALITY CHECK FROM ENGLISH NEIGHBOURS

FOR Wales, 2011 is the start of a new era. With a thus-far pointless European Championship campaign having seen off John Toshack, and defeats against Bulgaria and Switzerland spoiling Brian Flynn's claims to succeed him, the Welsh FA has turned to Gary Speed.

A four-month spell in the particularly hot-seat of Sheffield United has been the limit of Speed's experience, a reign that hardly set the world alight, and the novice manager could have hoped for a gentler introduction into competitive international football than England at home.

It was a task made all the more difficult with Gareth Bale's

withdrawal on Thursday with a hamstring injury, but as new captain Aaron Ramsey led his team out to do battle with 'the neighbours', there was an air perhaps more of hope than expectation engulfing a sold-out Millennium Stadium.

That hope lasted all of five minutes, as Wales, who began far more nervously than their counterparts, conceded a penalty.

Ashley Young evaded his club teammate James Collins, only for the Welshman to make an ungainly challenge on him in the box; the referee had little hesitation in pointing to the spot, and Frank Lampard converted.

With a good start hugely important, this setback seemed to shake the Welsh players, who were unable to get the ball out of their own half. The task was

made all the more difficult when Glen Johnson's exquisite pass found man of the match Young, and his low cross was tapped in by Darren Bent to give England a two goal cushion after only 15 minutes.

With the sell-out crowd deflated, and Wales struggling to impose themselves, the remainder of the half saw neither team really threaten, with England easing up and Wales failing to get going.

With playmaker and captain Aaron Ramsey being forced deep to get the ball, and then being marshalled superbly by Scott Parker, Wales went in at the break having achieved nothing.

The second half performance was at least livelier from the men in red, and their first half

chance came on 53 minutes, Bellamy lifting the ball behind Ashley Cole, but Andy King blasted wide.

Their best chance came seven minutes later. Ramsey's through ball found Morrison in the penalty area, but hesitation and the attention of John Terry meant the Millwall striker couldn't get a shot away.

With the arrival of David Vaughan and Ched Evans, on for King and Morrison, giving Wales more impetus going forward, Ramsey had more time to affect the game, but again the lack of quality at vital times put paid to any notion of an unlikely, and undeserved, comeback.

Put simply, Wales were not at the races on a day when they should have been, not only in terms of who the opposition

were but also in terms of breaking their duck in the qualifying group.

Poor performances and Speed's managerial naivety only exacerbated matters against an England team who did enough to win at a canter without really breaking a sweat.

Why Speed opted for Andrew Crofts in the midfield instead of David Vaughn, who has been one of the Premier League's best performers this season, beggars belief, as does the inability to grasp that Ramsey would be unable to impact on the game if he wasn't given the time and space he needed.

Much like the situation their rugby counterparts found themselves in, picking up a win would be a vital confidence boost for a team who have tasted

victory only once in the last eight games, and whose next competitive game comes in September with a home tie against the surprise package of the group, Montenegro, before a visit to Wembley four days later.

Defeat in those games, while not a disaster, would be a further knock for a team whose lack of quality and ability was exposed on Saturday.

While, like previous managers, Speed has said that qualification for the 2014 World Cup is his main aim rather than Euro 2012, he shouldn't take his eyes too far off the present situation – otherwise things may get a lot worse before they get better.

GARETH JAMIESON

Kenfig Hill have too much for Bryncoch

Kenfig Hill Firsts Bryncoch

THERE was a stalemate for the first 20 minutes even though Kenfig Hill had most of the possession.

It took a moment of individual brilliance by left wing Matthew Tossell to break the deadlock to score the opening try, which was converted by outside-half Nicky Higgins.

Right-wing Kyle Evans then made one of his mesmerising runs and passed the ball to give centre Chris Tossell a try, converted by Giles.

Bryncoch defended resolutely for the rest of the half to prevent any more scoring.

Kenfig Hill kicked off the second half, and though Bryncoch caught the ball, the Kenfig Hill captain and centre intercepted the pass to the outside half and strolled over for a try, converted by Giles.

Prop Gavin Jenkins got in on the act when he

crossed the line following a rolling maul to gain a bonus point, Giles again converting.

Bryncoch opened their scoring account with a long range penalty by outside half David Higgins.

Kenfig Hill then brought on Mark Jenkins as a substitute and seconds later was back on the bench when he was awarded a yellow card, Higgins putting over the subsequent penalty. There were further transgressions by the Mules, with Higgins adding two more penalties.

Mark Jenkins came back on and made up for his misdemeanour with a fine break, sending out a defence-splitting pass to Kyle Evans who went over for a try in the corner.

This gave a final score of: Kenfig Hill 33 Bryncoch 12.

For Kenfig Hill, second row Jon Thomas was named man of the match, with Kyle Evans winning the Prince of Wales

award of a dinner for two. There were also good performances by back row forwards Scott Waller and Derwyn Rees.

The previous week, Kenfig Hill demolished Nantfyllon 57-9 at Nantfyllon. Nicky Giles scored three tries and five conversions, Raymond Evans scored two tries and there were tries apiece for Kyle Evans, Gareth Edwards, Scott Hancock and Tom Briggs, with Kyle Evans converting his own try.

Kenfig Hill 2nd XV 37 Skewen 2nd XV 8

THE Mules' second string returned to winning ways with a comfortable win against Skewen seconds.

Both the Mules and Skewen included a fair sprinkling of youth players in their teams and it was Skewen who started strongest, scoring an unconverted try and penalty.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21)



Chris Tossell in action for the Firsts.
PHOTO BY PETER GILLING

Athletic hope for run-in success

BRIDGEND Athletic, without a fixture on Saturday, resume their Division 1 West campaign at Bonymaen this Saturday.

Their coaches, Paul Yardley, John Apsee and David Williams, have set a target of a top four finish. They have six remaining fixtures and four against top sides in the league, including Bonymaen away and home.

On April 9, they are looking for a league double when they host second placed Corus, then the following Saturday, they entertain Bridgend Ravens.

The club wish congratulate their neighbours on already securing the Division 1 East championship, and wish them well in their quest for the Premiership in the end of season playoffs.

However, there will be no such charity when the Athletic hope to become the first side to lower the Ravens' colours this season; a bumper crowd at Newbridge Fields is anticipated.

The following Saturday, April 23, the Athletic host Whitland and they finish their campaign at Waunarlwydd on April 30.

AB

Wick RFC prove that they can keep up with high-flying Saracens

THE Wick First XV team travelled to the Roath Recreational Ground to test themselves against high flying Cardiff Saracens, who are currently third in Division 6 central, the very league that Wick have applied to join next season.

Both teams started sizing one another out until Morgan Thomas crashed over from 15 yards, setting Creed up for one of his easiest conversions all season to give Wick a 0-7 lead.

This fired up the home side and they came back strong, surging into the Wick half until finally a penalty was awarded to take the score to 3-7.

It was all Sarries for the next 15 minutes, but Wick set an impenetrable defensive wall that would not yield.

Sarries had two unsuccessful penalty shots, but big hit after big hit sent the home side into half time with no reward for a very solid set-piece performance.

The second half carried on where the first had left off, with Sarries pushing, finally resulting in Wick's Bryn McNaughton receiving a yellow card for backchatting the referee.

It looked like this was Sarries chance, but the Wick big hits just kept thwarting every attack launched, and finally broke the home side's confidence.

On the 60-minute mark, Morgan Thomas, who looks to be Ravens-bound next season, struck again, crashing over from midfield after the attack had pulled the defense from one side of the pitch to the other and back again.

Creed kept his 100 per cent kicking record, and slotted the conversion for a deserved 3-14 lead.

Wick had tested themselves against a good side, and returned feeling confident and hopeful for entry to the national Swale Leagues next year.

The Second XV were in league action at home to Bridgend and District Division Three leaders Maesteg Celtic Seconds.

The Millers were boosted by Atlantic College student Jamie Spragg, whose lineout display was first class.

The Celtic started the stronger side and were intent on claiming the league title, with hopes that second place Maesteg Harlequins would slip up.

The game produced 12 tries, 7 to the Celtic and 5 to Wick.

The home tries were scored by Jamie Spragg (2), Nathan Pike (2) and Kenny Thomas.

Final score: Wick 28, Maesteg Celtic 45.

This week sees league action for both teams; the First XV at home to Tonmawr Seconds, and the Millers are away to Maesteg Harlequins.

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